



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



NEWS

What beats snores on M-Level? Try camping out next to a sleeping camel. One Hopkins student reflects on her time abroad, A9.



SPORTS

En Garde! Hopkins and Haverford crossed blades on Sunday with the Jays emerging as the victors, B10.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Prepare to put away those rabbit-ears. TV will soon be switching from an analog to a digital signal, B7.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Editorials A10
Opinions A11
Calendar B2
Arts B3

Science B6
Your N-L B8
Cartoons B9
Sports B12

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New police ordinance increases regulations

Due to community complaints, officers must file incident reports when students are involved

By KATLYN TORGERSON
Editor-in-Chief

Citing a recent increase in community complaints, The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has issued an order stating that all officers responding to incidents involving students in the Northern District — which includes Towson University, Loyola College and Hopkins — must submit a written report of the incident.

Although community leaders have varied ideas about the potential consequences of this policy change, BPD Community Liaison for the Northern District Doug Gibson said that the order was mainly intended to increase documentation of incidents involving students.

"We're making sure we document incidents of disorderly conduct so that we can take action against the properties if we need to," he said.

He pointed to a track record of incidents involving Hopkins students dating back to the year 2000.

"It's been a continuous problem. There's been a mix of students living in residential areas where there are drastic lifestyle differences," Gibson said.

In many cases, he explained, student behavior escalates to the point where there are violations of the law.

HopkinsStudent/Community Liaison
SEE COMPLAINTS, PAGE A5

Crew team to be discontinued next fall

By ERIC GOODMAN
Sports Editor

The Hopkins Department of Athletics and Recreation has announced that both men's and women's varsity crew teams will be discontinued, effective at the end of the spring 2009 season.

The decision, made last Thursday, was financially motivated.

"It is perhaps the most difficult thing I've done in my 20 years here," Director of Athletics Tom Calder said, referring to the decision to disband the crew teams. Calder has spent the last 13 years at Hop-

kins as athletic director.

"The fact that today's poor economic condition is forcing all colleges and universities to begin cutting back in many areas, including student services, only pushed this growing fiscal problem to the surface and made it an immediate budgetary decision," Calder said.

The combined crew budgets are currently the most expensive budgets, after the men's and women's lacrosse NCAA Division I budgets, and the costs have continued to increase.

As a sport, the crew team has been relatively successful during its two decades

as a varsity sport at Hopkins.

According to Steven Perry, who has been the head coach of the men's and women's crew teams since their inception, crew has won numerous medals at the prestigious Dad Vail Regatta in Philadelphia and has also produced a male Olympic medalist and female World Championship medalist.

The decision to eliminate crew was under consideration for several years, according to Calder, but it became more immediate when the cost to finance the team's operating budgets and to pay for the replacement of increasingly expensive

SEE CREW, PAGE A8



COURTESY OF JHU ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

After two decades and several honors, the crew team will be disbanded due to budget cuts in the Department of Athletics and Recreation.

Brody's sobering e-mail warns of budget cuts

By THOMAS DANNER
News & Features Editor

In an e-mail announcement last Friday, President Bill Brody revealed that the University's endowment has dropped by approximately 20 percent during the first six months of the current fiscal year.

James McGill, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, noted that the drop in the endowment could be a harbinger of an even greater decline.

"There are other revenue declines we are experiencing and projecting through the next two and a half years against those that we had planned and earlier budgeted," he wrote in an e-mail to the News-Letter.

"They are much larger in magnitude than the impact of the decline in asset value in the endowment. They include the recovery of overhead payments related to grants and contracts; these reimbursements pay for space and administrative support for the research conducted at Hopkins."

Hopkins is not alone in its endowment decline. Several universities nationwide have endured similar-sized cuts to their endowments, including Yale, Harvard and Duke.

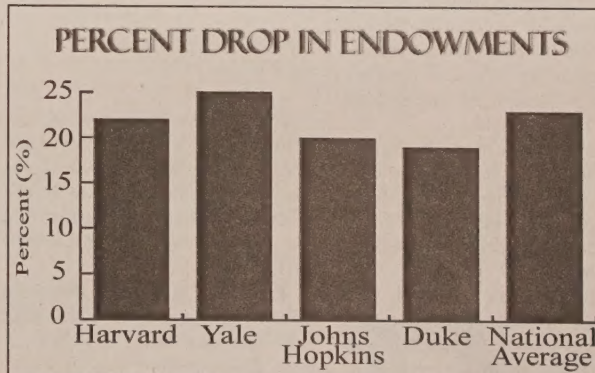
According to a National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) survey, the value of college endowment investments fell by an average of 23 percent during the beginning

of fiscal year 2009.

Brody wrote that the projected revenue over the next two fiscal years "will be a total of more than \$100 million short

of previous estimates."

Vincent Amoroso, director of Student Financial Services, noted that the University has
SEE FINANCE, PAGE A4



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

Hopkins's endowment has dropped by nearly 20 percent in the past six months.

Hopkinsburg: activism on campus, the '80s vs. now

This is the first of two articles that examine the issues around which Hopkins students have organized and the tactics they have used to affect change in the community over the past two decades.

By DANIEL FURMAN
Staff Writer

Twenty-three years ago, a group of Delta Epsilon fraternity brothers did what many who remain on campus during the period between the end of exams and commencement do — they watched a movie and drank a case of beer.

Afterward, their discussion turned to three shanties on the Lower Quad constructed by the anti-Apartheid student group, a Coalition for a Free South Africa (CFSA).

The shanties went up in April of that year in an act of student protest. The group sought to raise campus awareness of the conditions of blacks in South Africa, as well as pressure the

SEE PROTEST, PAGE A4



PHOTO BY MIKE RUNGE

Members of the Coalition for a Free South Africa built a shanty on the quad in 1987.

As lacrosse gears up, reporter shares the experience

Members of the championship-winning lacrosse team act as a family during the season

By SAM ECKSTEIN
News & Features Editor

It's hard to go five minutes talking to a Hopkins men's lacrosse player without hearing the word "family."

From the first day a freshman lacrosse player moves onto campus and is met by the entire team to help him move

into Wolman, he begins to understand what Coach Dave Pietramala was talking about when he told the high school recruit a year earlier about this Jay family.

It's no wonder not one member of the 49-person team is in a fraternity; they can spend up to 40 hours a week practicing together.

this year," Evans said. Evans, who has played in two championship games, believes that in a league where everyone has talent, acting like a unified team is what separates winners from losers.

As a senior, Evans is now in the position to personally make sure the team feels "like a team."

"We are trying to be as much like a family as we can. Part of that is [thanks to] guys like Mike [Evans], who, when I was a freshman, went out of his way [to] try to make sure I knew that they cared about me," sophomore Matt Dolente said. "A couple of weeks in, you feel like you've been here for years."

At practices, which are held six days a week for at least three hours, players are constantly hollering, cheering each other on, lauding individual play and the entire team, and when the situation warrants it, holding each other accountable.

Because Hopkins puts such an emphasis on lacrosse, for example, they
SEE LACROSSE, PAGE A7



FILE PHOTO

Hopkins (in blue) defeated Cornell (in red) during a scrimmage last spring.

NEWS & FEATURES

Inconsistencies abound in Health and Wellness absence policies

By **TRANG DIEM VU**
Staff Writer

Many undergraduates are unaware of Hopkins policy on missing class due to illness and are unclear on what steps to take when they miss a day of class, several days of class or a major exam.

The Health and Wellness Center does not give out "sick notes" to excuse students from class, but many students continue to ask for them regardless.

"I don't know if there is one specific policy that applies to every class," sophomore Javaneh Jabbari said. "I'm not sure if there is one policy — or if there is one, I don't know [of] it."

Many Hopkins students share this confusion.

"I'm just a freshman," Catia Goncalves said, "and I know that if you're sick, you go to the Health and Wellness Center, but I

have no idea how that [translates] to professors or anything."

Junior Esther Kim was under the misconception that the Health and Wellness Center still hands out sickness notes to excuse student absences, when in fact this practice was abandoned in 2006.

"Each time [I was sick] I thought I had to [do it] differently. They won't hand out sick notes; you have to go through a different office to do that, which seems somewhat counter-intuitive because professors are looking for evidence that you're sick from the Health Center."

Organic Chemistry Lab Professor Jane Greco has witnessed this problem with some of her students.

"Occasionally students don't even know the policy. I've had students e-mail me saying they're too sick to come to lab, and they're on their way to Health and Well-

ness to get a note. And that's never been anything I've asked for."

The school's policy for missing class due to illness can be found in the *Undergraduate Handbook* and on the Student Health and Wellness Center Web site, under "Student Illness Notes."

The *Handbook* states, "If a student experiences a serious or extended illness that causes the student to miss a significant number of classes or major academic assignments, including mid-term examinations, the student can provide a physician's documentation of the illness to the Dean of Student Life, who will notify the student's instructors."

The Health and Wellness Center will not provide documentation for students who miss individual classes. In these cases, students should communicate directly with their instructors."

Most of the confusion stems from the fact that the policy was different in 2005.

"For years and years and years, for a lot of courses and a lot of faculty, if a student missed a class, they had to get an illness note," Medical Director of the Student Health and Wellness Center Dr. Alain Joffe said.

However, in 2005, administrators began to notice an abuse of the system.

"It had gotten to the point where students and faculty were expecting notes for anything," Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell said. "That was taking time away from the practitioners who had to be with students who were sick at the time."

Many professors found fault with the old system.

"[Health and Wellness] would give any student a note for any reason, so it really was pretty meaningless," Introduction to Chemistry Lab Professor Louise Pasternack said. "It really didn't help me very much."

Health and Wellness, along with Boswell, revised the policy in 2005.

"What we came up with was that we would continue to provide illness notes for students who missed an important mid-term or final, something really significant — or for students who were going to be out for a period

of time," Joffe said.

The changes were first set in place for spring of 2006, and faculty and students were notified of the new policy. But confusion has been created by the persistence of convention.

"The only recurrent problem is there are certain classes for which the faculty are requiring that any absence be excused, particularly the language classes," Boswell said.

In these situations, Boswell said she tries to be flexible.

"If the faculty member is very, very insistent that a note be provided, I will confirm with the Health Center that the student [visited them] and send a note to the faculty," she said.

According to Joffe, at the beginning of each semester, students are reminded by mass e-mail of the current policy.

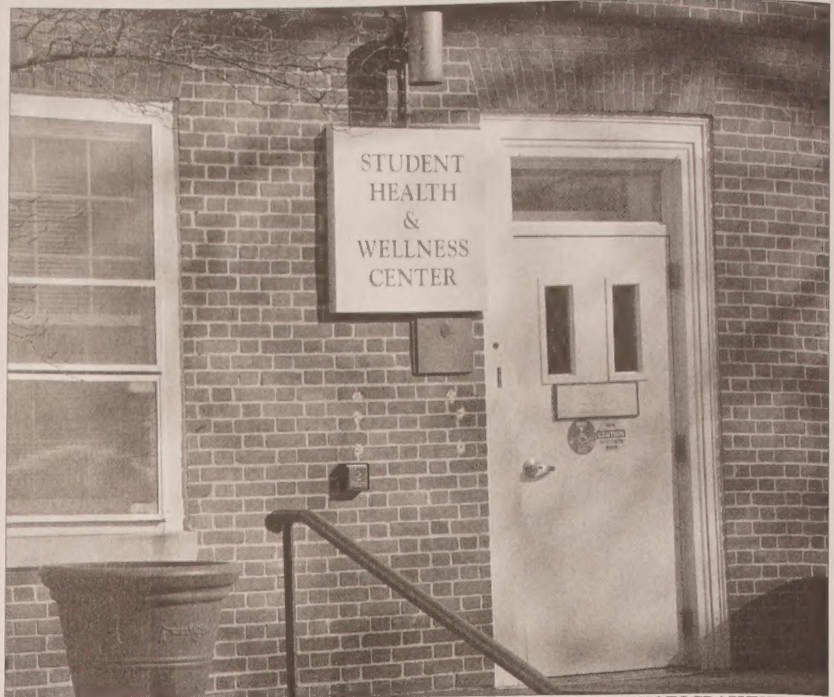
"I don't know how many students don't open that e-mail or kind of look at it and say, 'Yeah, yeah, yeah,' figuring they don't need it and then find themselves confused," Joffe said.

Boswell is considering posting the policy in one of the upcoming Daily Announcements sent to students.

Attendance makes up a significant portion of most grades, particularly for labs and language classes. For labs, a great deal of physical interaction and participation is required of the student, and in language classes, attendance contributes to immersion in the language.

"Communication really is the goal of learning a language," Spanish Elements Lecturer Michelle Tracy said.

"Students with good atten-



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Though the Health and Wellness center does not give out sick notes, several professors expect them.

dance records tend to get more practice both hearing and speaking the language."

Senior Lecturer and Coordinator of German Language Instruction Deborah Mifflin addressed the fact that most of the professors still following the old policy seem to be language professors.

"In the language program it's on our syllabus [to require notes after three absences], and we all follow the same rules. But it's possible that some TAs are confused or it's possible that an individual professor has decided that it's necessary to get a note."

The new policy has worked well for many professors.

"I don't think I would need a note, even if notes were available, for a student who misses a single lab period," Greco said. "Limiting students to two absences for the entire semester and requiring them to still turn in the assignment, to me, works better than making everybody go and see a doctor to get a note."

Surprisingly, the trust endowed on students has not yet proven to be a challenge, according to Boswell.

But students are well aware of the opportunities for abuse of the policy, especially for large lecture classes.

"Unless a professor [of a lecture] saw you after class or something, there wouldn't be any legitimate way for the professor to check that you've actually been

sick," Kim said.

Joffe believes that this must be accepted.

"If someone wants an illness note because they didn't do their work, then that student's going to get that note under any system. It doesn't make much a difference in policy. I don't feel like students are manipulating us."

"If a student can lie to Health and Wellness, they can lie to us," Pasternack said. "But here at Hopkins, you guys are good kids. You generally don't lie . . . really!"

Boswell and Joffe have reminded students of the consequences of taking advantage of the system.

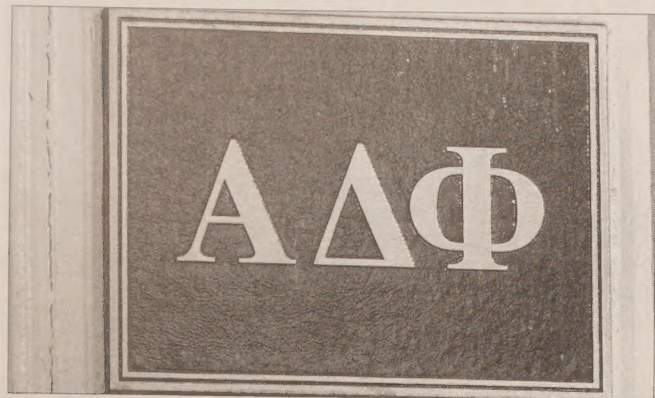
"Misrepresenting your personal circumstances to a faculty member or any University official constitutes academic dishonesty and is grounds for action by the Academic Ethics Board," reads the 2006 letter to undergraduates.

Many students know that missing class is never a good idea.

"Quite honestly, if you don't go to class, it's going to hurt you," Jabbari said.

The key piece of advice students should remember is to contact their professor as soon as they know they will miss a day of class.

"We're all online almost 24/7," Mifflin said. "I know that students are easily plugged in. Even if they are sick in bed, they're doing e-mails."



MARY DZWONCHYK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alpha Delta Phi saw a slight increase in the number of pledges this year.

Fraternities surge as sorority numbers remain the same

By **SARAH TAN**
For the News-Letter

While fraternities are expecting to see an increase in pledges this year, most sorority recruitment numbers have stayed approximately the same since last year.

The pledging for sororities experienced a huge increase in numbers last year, partially due to their increased prominence around campus, as well as a change in recruiting techniques to more personalized experiences, according to Rob Turning, director of Greek Life.

Sororities' pledging numbers this year decreased slightly on average, with each sorority having about three fewer pledges than last year, with the exception of Kappa Kappa Gamma, which saw an increase of six pledges.

However, sorority representatives say they are not worried about the drop. Leah Zambetti, vice president of Program Development for Alpha Phi, said that she attributed the slight decrease in pledges this year to the normal yearly fluctuation as well as the unusually successful precedent of last year.

"We had a really big jump in pledging last year. We went from having 35 pledges to 42, and the reason it went down this year was probably just because last year had such a big up, and it was sort of evening itself out," Zambetti said.

Turning agreed that the slight decrease in Panhellenic recruitment should not be seen as a warning sign.

According to Turning, sororities attract more women per organization than fraternities, due partly to the prominent efforts of sorority recruiting on campus.

"The girls' process is definitely more visible than the men's because you see the women walking around with bags and sweatshirts," he said.

In addition, sororities have increased their prominence on campus through attending sports events and taking part in campus activities such as Spring Fair.

"The past few years, we have put our money to better use to encourage sisterhood. Girls see pictures on Facebook, and they see our tote bags and they sense a really strong sisterhood bond," Zambetti said.

This year, Alpha Phi has 40 pledges, down from 43 last year, Kappa Alpha Theta has 40 pledges, Kappa Kappa Gamma has 38, up from last year's count of 32, and Phi Mu has 39.

Although the official pledge numbers are not in for some fraternities, Turning said that he definitely expects to see an in-

crease from last year's numbers.

One of the main reasons for the estimated increase in overall pledges is the addition of a new fraternity on campus, Phi Delta Theta. Phi Delta Theta has reported 38 pledges for this semester, which will bolster the overall pledge numbers for fraternities this year.

Turning said that in addition to the number of people who pledged Phi Delta Theta, "a lot more interest is garnered towards the Greek community when a new group joins."

As a result, it is expected that all fraternities will report an increase in pledges this year.

Turning also said that Phi Delta Theta experienced a much higher number of upperclassmen pledges than any other Greek society.

"That's typical of a new group, though, because they're recruiting guys who were probably not interested in the previous groups on campus, and those people are generally going to be upperclassmen," Turning said.

Many fraternities, including Phi Delta Theta, have begun centering their recruiting methods less around big events and more around small, personal meetings with pledges.

"Our primary method this year was to become friends with these guys early in the fall and not overbear them with rush until the second semester began," President of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Kyle Keane said.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon has reported a pledge count of 15, up significantly from last year's eight pledges.

Alpha Epsilon Pi has also reported more pledges for this year. The fraternity received 14 pledges, up from the 11 that they've had in the past two years, and rush Chair Jake Meth agreed that smaller events have helped to garner pledges.

Meth also attributed the surge in pledges to the fraternity hosting more on-campus events.

"We did a lot of things off campus before, but we've found that kids are a little skeptical to take a whole trip off campus when they don't even know the brothers yet," Meth said.

Information sessions regarding fraternities were hosted in the activities room in AMR II, which brought potential new members to the fraternities.

Other fraternities have reported little change in their pledge numbers this year. Sigma Chi has reported 10 pledges this year, slightly down from last year's 12, and Pi Kappa Alpha has reported 19 pledges, slightly down from last year's 21.

If a student can lie to Health and Wellness, then they can lie to us.

— PROFESSOR LOUISE PASTERNAK

Chinese students report discrepancies in education systems

By **GISELLE CHANG**
Staff Writer

For Chinese international students at Hopkins, the biggest difficulty is not the school's workload or even the nearly 8,000-mile distance from family. Rather, it is the culture shock of American social life.

Yan He, a Carey Business School student from Nanjing, said that she was surprised at how disconnected life at Hopkins can be.

"People individually choose classes and clubs or organizations to participate in," she said. "In Chinese universities there's sort of a homeroom organization, and there's more of a feeling of connection."

He explained that she preferred the group lifestyle in China, where she would go about all her daily activities with others.

"We [students] feel like we're family, and we influence each other, whereas here in America, there are only small circles of

friends," she said.

Claire Hong, a second year public policy graduate student, agreed that she felt somewhat isolated at Hopkins compared to her experience at Fudan University in China. She attributes this to her large workload as well as the greater degree of independence at American universities.

"The lifestyle in the U.S. is pretty individual-oriented, and people take care of themselves," she said. "I spend more time doing research and studying so I haven't been really engaged in any student activities."

Jian Mei Zhu, who is studying biochemistry and molecular biology, explained that in the U.S. her social life is limited to the occasional dinner party. According to Zhu, in China, people are closer and do more activities together than people in the U.S. Additionally, it can be difficult for Chinese students to make friends with American students.

"I feel that most of the Chinese students have a hard time making close American friends," Hopkins graduate student LeYao Wang said. "We can collaborate well at work, but there are some cultural differences that prevent us from becoming close, though we try very hard."

"I would feel bad asking someone to do me a favor, and even though people are nice, they are still very independent

so favor-asking is much more rare," she said.

However, according to Professor Rebecca Hsieh, who teaches several Chinese language classes at Hopkins, American universities offer more social opportunities and allow for students to be more well-rounded.

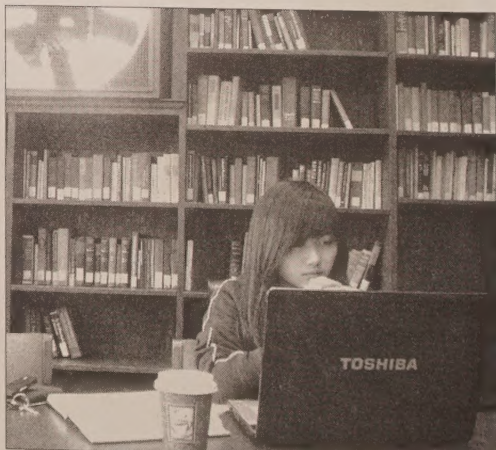
"I think in China students tend to memorize a lot and spend a lot of time studying. I think in this country students are more open to more than just studying," she said. "Besides their courses they have a lot of other activities available to them, so while students in China are academically very strong, the students here are more well-rounded as people."

While students and professors may contest the social pros and cons when comparing Chinese and American Universities, both groups agree that American universities seem to offer the better education.

Zhu says that classes at Hopkins are more challenging and more complete, particularly because lab research is a required in certain classes, in addition to attending class daily.

"It's pretty thorough and tough training and you feel like you learn a lot," she said. "The teachers try to train you to be an expert in the field."

Hong said that her undergraduate experience was similar to



EILEEN HUANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Many Chinese students find U.S. academics less rigorous.

that of a party school compared to her experience at Hopkins. She also described the courses at Hopkins as more demanding and more intense.

"It seems to me that not many students care about studying as much in China and so they don't participate," she said.

Wang pointed to the different teacher structure in American and Chinese universities as a factor that makes the learning experience in American schools better.

In his Chinese undergraduate university, one professor would teach all of his classes, offering only a general introduction to most subjects.

"The professors here all have a special research area. They are always the best and give us the most up-to-date information," he said.

Wang, Zhu, Hong and He all intend to remain in America after they graduate and hope to find work some where on the East coast.



FILE PHOTO

The social and academic life is different in Chinese universities.

Univ. does not monitor traffic to enforce IT policy

Illicit sharing of music and videos remains rampant at Hopkins, despite warnings

By ALEXANDER TRAUM
Editor-in-Chief

Despite being against University policy and federal law, many students have expressed little hesitation about downloading TV shows, movies and music from DC++ and other similar peer-to-peer file-sharing providers.

Several Hopkins students said that the perceived anonymity and low enforcement of file-sharing policy made it seem less serious of an offense.

"You don't hear about many consequences . . . it doesn't seem like much of a risk," an anonymous freshman who lives in Building B said.

The University's Internet Technology policy forbids, "any use of copyrighted materials in violation of copyright laws or of vendor licensing agreements (e.g. illegal downloading and/or sharing of media files or computer software)."

According to Darren Lacey, Hopkins chief Information security officer, the University does not monitor Internet traffic on its network.

"We don't have the time and resources to do that even if we wanted to," he said.

Under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, a national copyright law, the University's Office of General Counsel re-

ceives a notice if a copyright infringement is detected. The Counsel's office then sends the notice to IT to determine the validity of the notice.

If IT can confirm that the illegal file sharing occurred from a particular user's IP address, then they will temporarily block that user's access.

The University does not see such a block as punitive, explained Lacey.

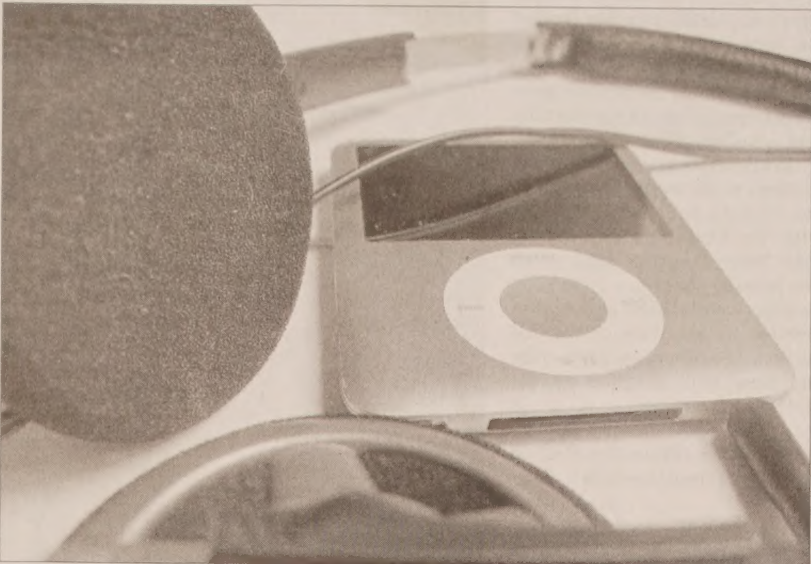
However, if a repeat offender is suspected then IT will forward the complaint to the Office of the Dean of Student Life, which determines the proper course of action.

According to Lacey, this happens once every three or four years, and he could not recall a case where a student has received punishment for illegally file sharing on the Hopkins network.

The University's approach toward dealing with illegal file sharing is common, Lacey said.

"Basically, it's a standard issue for universities to not allow illegal file sharing. There is nothing exceptional about the policy."

According to Avi Rubin, Professor in the Computer Science Department and Technical director of the Information Security Insti-



BRITNI CROCKER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Illegal music sharing is one of the most common forms of file abuse, encouraged by the network DC++.

tute, the University has the capability to block certain ports that are commonly used for file sharing if it wanted to.

"A service provider is always in a position to observe, monitor and restrict access" Rubin said.

This month, the U.S. Department of Education will begin writing regulations that will interpret three provisions in the Higher Education Act that deal with illegal file sharing.

The Act requires universities to inform students of the penalties for illegal file sharing and to "effectively combat" copyright violations with "a variety of technology-based deterrents."

The current Act also requires universities to provide alternatives to illegal file sharing. The Department of Education declined to comment on what these new regulations will entail.

According to Lacey, the effects of the Act's new provisions on the University are hard to predict.

I have cut down on downloading movies and TV shows because of Hulu.

— ANONYMOUS JUNIOR

"It's not clear that we will have to change [about the policy], but we're always reviewing how we go about doing things . . . It's very difficult to tell what the act will require in the long term," he said.

Students interviewed said that they would be more cautious if they perceived file sharing as a risky activity.

"I have cut down on downloading movies and TV shows because of Hulu. If I don't have to download illegally, I won't, just in case [the University] decided to crack down," a junior who lives in Charles Commons said.

"I definitely still use [DC++] for music," the student quickly added.

For Rubin, illegal file sharing is comparable to dialing a 900 number at a person's house without their permission.

"There are certain things you should comply with — not so much because you will be caught but because it's the right thing to do."



FILE PHOTO
Hopkins, unlike its peer institutions, has yet to offer retirement incentives.

Universities to offer retirement incentives

By LAURA MUTH & SARAH HERSH
Staff Writers

In light of the global financial crisis, many universities are beginning to offer incentives to employees who are willing to retire, but so far, Hopkins has not extended — and has no plans to extend — such offers to its faculty.

Meanwhile, peer institutions such as Dartmouth and Harvard have been offering voluntary retirement incentives in order to prevent having to layoff faculty.

According to the *Yale Daily News*, Yale University has also been considering providing incentives to professors, but nothing has been finalized.

Senior Associate Dean for Finance and Administration for the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences Frederick Puddester said that Hopkins has no plans to offer retirement incentives to professors.

"At the Krieger School, which is the only school I am working with, we have no plans at this time to do incentives," he said.

Unlike some of its peer schools, Hopkins is taking a different approach to managing the financial shortages caused by the ailing economy.

Puddester noted that the upcoming hiring and salary freeze, effective July 1, was engineered to prevent having to layoff faculty.

"We believe, based on our current conservative estimates on revenue, that those actions will be, with some other stuff we're doing, sufficient to balance our budget for 2010, so that we won't need to do across the board layoffs," he said.

Dartmouth launched a plan that offered six months of pay to employees following their retirement. Staff over age 55 with at least 10 years of continuous service, some 600 employees, were eligible, according to *The Dartmouth*.

Harvard offered a similar plan to its staff this past week. The eligibility requirements were the same as Dartmouth's, though Harvard's reward is projected to be a lump-sum payment, accord-

ing to the *Harvard Crimson*.

The *Crimson* stated that administration viewed the incentive program as a preventative effort to avoid having to fire employees.

Even though Hopkins did not adopt the incentive strategy of some of its peer institutions, most students supported the University's decision not to offer retirement incentives at this time.

Freshman Camille Kramer expressed her preference for Hopkins policy over the alternative of retirement incentives.

"New professors who make less will have less initiative to probably go above and beyond in the classroom," Kramer said. "Education should be the biggest priority, so I agree with [freezing salaries]. I think it is the best policy."

Junior David Sigmon echoed Kramer's remarks.

"A lot of the best professors have been around a long time, so they learn how to best teach college kids. They don't treat us like we're five years old," he said.

"The three best professors I've had have been three old guys."

Sigmon also agreed that freezing salaries was a good compromise between firing and offering incentives.

"I think [freezing salaries] is something we have to do. Money is tight everywhere," he said. "I think it's better than cutting stuff."

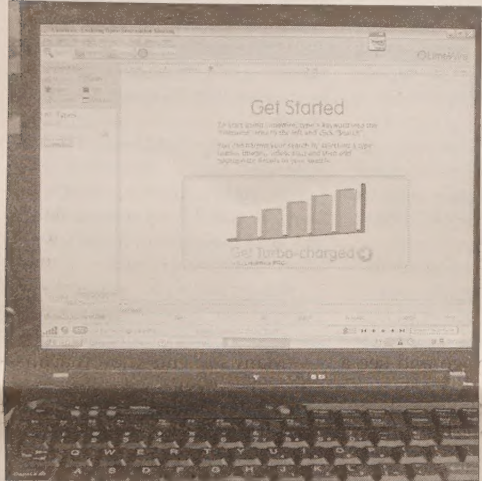
Other students were more skeptical about whether or not a salary freeze would be sufficient to cover the University's losses.

"I don't know how much [professors] make, but I'm sure that freezing their salaries won't make much of a difference," senior Dave Larose said.

Although the University has no current plans to offer retirement incentives, Puddester did not exclude it as a possibility if the necessity arose.

"We are looking at all our options right now," he said.

"We're working with the chairs of the departments and the heads of administration almost on a daily basis to come up with ideas to save money, so we're looking at everything."



JOHN TORRES/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Many students choose to ignore warnings about illegal sharing.

Military veterans may receive increased funds for tuition

By LAURA MUTH
Staff Writer

Military veterans may soon receive more funds for tuition due to a new program that will supplement funds from the GI Bill, known as the yellow ribbon program.

The program is an addition to the new GI bill, also known as Chapter 33 or the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which was enacted as a result of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008.

Although the GI bill offers four academic years' worth of tuition funding, the funds only reach a cap that is set at the tuition of the most expensive public college in the state.

The yellow ribbon program is intended to help bridge the gap between tuition costs and federal funding.

According to the official GI Bill Web site, the yellow ribbon program is essentially a fund-matching program. When a school forms an agreement with the program, the government will provide the same amount of

funds as the school provides to fund the student, up to the full cost of tuition.

Hopkins has not yet committed to participating in the program.

According to Paula Burger, dean of Undergraduate Education and Vice Provost, the program has some ambiguities that need to be resolved.

"It depends on some answers we don't have yet," she said. "I'll give you an example. From my read-through of the program, it isn't clear whether it applies not only to veterans but also to their dependents."

Burger noted that the University would also need to determine whether or not the government's fund-matching would extend to students in graduate or professional schools.

The yellow ribbon program provides an incentive for colleges to adopt the measure, as it allows them to provide aid to two students for the price of one.

In order to be eligible for 100 percent of GI Bill funding, veterans must have served a total of

According to Burger, veterans at Hopkins currently receive need-based aid from the University.

"We do have some veterans here already, and they get funded through need-based financial aid, which is independent of this program," she said.

Burger noted that Hopkins's decision about whether or not to commit to the program would be forthcoming, as the deadline for confirming participation is approaching.

Previously, veterans who wanted to attend schools whose tuition exceeded the state tuition cap, such as private institutions or graduate programs, had to apply for additional scholarships or take out loans to pay for tuition.

A unique aspect of the program is that it does not mandate how much money a school contributes to veterans. Schools can participate in the yellow ribbon program by offering complete support, 50 percent of the difference between tuition and GI Bill funding, or any other level they choose.

The economic crisis could have a large effect on the amount of funds veterans actually receive.

Unfortunately for veterans, many schools, struggling with the current financial crisis, have been hesitant to increase their expenditures until the market stabilizes, according to a *military.com* article.

The bill only allows for financial aid to be granted in the form of a tuition waiver, rather than a scholarship, meaning that existing scholarships combined with newer tuition waivers could put a greater financial strain on the universities.

According to Vincent Amoruso, director of Student Financial Services, if Hopkins chooses to participate in the program, money will likely have to be reallocated from financial aid.

"If we do move forward with the program, money to fund it would most likely have to come from existing financial aid resources," he wrote in an e-mail to the *News-Letter*.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Maryland's state salary cap is \$7,090. The current price of undergraduate tuition at the Krieger Schools of Arts and Sciences and Whiting School of Engineering is \$37,700 for the 2008 to 2009 academic year.

In order for the University to provide undergraduate veterans with a full ride, they would have to match half the difference: a cost of \$15,305 per student.

Most Hopkins students were supportive of the yellow ribbon program, though some noted that it could be financially risky.

"I think it's a good idea. People who go into the army sometimes go because they might not have many other career choices, from what I've heard," freshman Barry Lee said.

"This will just be another benefit that they receive for fighting for their country. It could help people live up to their potential."

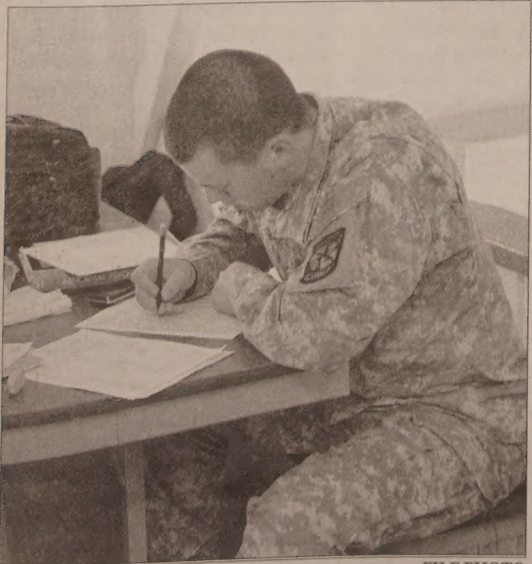
Sophomore Chris Von Dollen, a Hopkins ROTC member, was more cautious to recommend the program.

"Well, I don't know enough about our finances to be sure," he said. "The more the University can give out to people who want to be here the better, but I don't know if it would be wisest way to spend the money."

Sophomore Eddie Holzinger felt that the University should adopt the program.

"It definitely seems like a good idea. People who go fight overseas definitely have my respect," he said. "I support Hopkins in [offering the funds]."

— Additional reporting by Thomas Danner



FILE PHOTO
Young veterans may receive waivers for increased tuition funds.

SECURITY ALERTS

On Feb. 18 at 1:35 a.m., an RA found four freshman affiliates with what was suspected to be marijuana. Campus officers confiscated the suspect marijuana and gave it to Baltimore Police for analysis. Investigation is continuing.

Crime Prevention Tip:
Avoid leaving cell phones, iPods or other valuables in plain sight when you park your car. Hide everything by placing it in a glove compartment or under a seat. If you have a container in the car, leave it open so that it is clear that it contains nothing of value.

Crime prevention tip is courtesy of Campus Safety and Security.



Church Supper - Sat. - 2/21/09

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free Parking

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation
Corner of Maryland & Preston Sts.

\$10/dinner - Children \$6

Pastitsio, Tiropites & Salad + Vegetarian Menu!

Beverages and Dessert Available

All students, faculty & families are welcome!

410-727-1831 or 410-252-4558

NEWS & FEATURES

Facebook restores old privacy policy

By THOMAS DANNER
News & Features Editor

In response to a backlash of public opinion, the popular social networking Web site Facebook has reversed the changes it recently made to its privacy policy.

Thousands of users were worried about an update made to the site's privacy policy a few weeks ago that implied that Facebook would own any information posted to the Web site forever, even after users had cancelled their accounts.

Yesterday morning, Facebook contacted its users, informing them that the privacy policy had been altered to clarify their rights regarding posted information.

The Web site formed a new group called the "Facebook Bill of Rights and Responsibilities" to provide clarification to users who were still concerned.

The group makes more explicit Facebook's policy regarding user-submitted information.

"Facebook doesn't claim rights to any of your photos or other content," the announcement stated.

"We never intended to claim ownership over people's content even though that's what it seemed like to many people. This was a mistake, and we apologize for the confusion."

The apology seemed to allay the concerns of many Facebook users, although comments from some indicated that there was still a dispute.

"If you choose to remove your User Content, the license granted above will automatically expire. However, you acknowledge that the Company may retain archived copies of your User Content," the Terms of Service state.

Privacy concerns are nothing new for social networking sites. Many employers and colleges have been known to search for the Facebook or MySpace profiles of applicants.

Facebook boasts approximately 175 million members worldwide and was invented Mark Zuckerberg when he was a college student.

The privacy policy uproar comes just days after a leak from a law firm that revealed Zuckerberg had settled with claimants for \$65 million dollars last June over the lawsuit claiming Zuckerberg stole the idea for Facebook from Harvard classmates Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss.

The Winklevoss brothers created a similar networking site in college called ConnectU. The two allegedly hired Zuckerberg to finish the code for ConnectU but instead, Zuckerberg launched a networking site of his own, Facebook, in February 2004.

Coalition members achieve success, Univ. begins divestments

PROTEST, FROM A1

University to divest from any investment interests in the apartheid state.

The College Republicans erected a "Gulag" on the Lower Quad to demonstrate what they perceived majority rule would bring to South Africa.

The display was marred by sporadic acts of vandalism and violence against the shanties, which were occupied around the clock by members of the Coalition.

"My guess is that the lower quad has never since looked as colorful or generated as much political education," Patrick Bond, a past graduate student in the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering and leader of the Coalition, wrote in an e-mail.

From the actions of the CFSA in the late 1980s, to the recent efforts of Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND) and numerous community initiatives, Hopkins students have remained engaged in addressing social injustice.

Past students reported that students have not always received the same level of support from faculty members.

"The Administration was becoming increasingly business-oriented, raising money to bring [Hopkins] up to the power ball rollers. They didn't care one wit where money was invested or where it came from," Kevin Archer, a graduate student in the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering and member of the Coalition, said.

A core group of dedicated students occupied the shanties around clock, along with students engaged in similar actions across the country. All shared the goal of pressuring their universities into severing all financial ties with South Africa and companies that did business there.

It was during this time that the white-dominated government of South Africa, despite condemnation from the United Nations, had enacted martial law, serving to further marginalize and abrogate the human rights of black citizens.

At Hopkins, the struggle turned violent in May 1986.



COURTESY OF DANIEL FURMAN
A shanty, constructed by Coalition members, was the target of a firebombing.

Kevin Archer was just preparing to settle into his sleeping bag in one of the shanties when it burst into flames. A molten piece of plastic sheeting landed on him, leaving third degree burns on his back.

"It could have been much more disastrous if I was in my sleeping bag," Archer said.

While some coalition members worked to extinguish the flames on Archer's body, others chased after the Delta Epsilon brothers who were running away from the flaming shanty.

One was tackled and apprehended by members of the Coalition. The other two fire-bombers were later arrested by the police.

Coalition Intensifies Protest Against Administration's Policies

The Coalition continued to increase pressure on the University to adopt a policy of gradual divestment. They also raised the implications of some of the University's investments in Baltimore.

In his graduation speech to the class of 1986, President Steven Muller condemned the perpetrators of the firebombing.

"[They are] not only criminals, they are offenders against human reason and mortal enemies of the university," Muller said.

Soon after the firebombing, the State's Attorney brought charges of arson, conspiracy to commit arson and attempted murder against the three Delta Epsilon brothers. The attempted murder charge was later dropped.

The administration acted by suspending two of the students and withholding the diploma of one of the conspirators who was a senior.

In the fall of '86, the Coalition announced that it planned to construct another shanty as part of its continuing campaign.

"We have discussed alternate ways of educating the Hopkins community, but everyone has arrived at a consensus that the shanty was our best means of communication," Bond said in a *News-Letter* article at the time.

In response, the administration banned the construction of shanties on campus and obtained



COURTESY OF DANIEL FURMAN
Police carried away 14 Coalition members, enforcing a University-obtained court order against the student protesters.

a court order that ruled that anyone constructing or occupying a shanty on campus would be trespassing.

Undeterred, the Coalition erected a shanty in September 1986. On Sep. 30, Baltimore police, assisted by Hopkins security, arrested 14 students occupying the shanty.

"None of the protesters actively resisted arrest, although police had to carry them handcuffed to a waiting police patrol wagon," the *Baltimore Sun* reported.

Around the same time, a judge reduced the sentences of the three Delta Epsilon brothers responsible for the arson attack to community service and probation.

This stung members of the Coalition, some of whom now faced charges for contempt of court.

The *City Paper* reported at the time that upon hearing the judge's ruling, the prosecuting state's attorney was heard to call the ruling "a slap on the wrist . . . it's a double standard. Rich whites get set free."

The administration's decision to allow students to be arrested in the course of a political demonstration galvanized members of the faculty to support the students.

The decision also brought questions of students' right to exercise free speech on campus to the forefront. President Muller established a committee to examine the issue.

"In obtaining and requesting the enforcement of an injunction against a non-violent form of political expression, the University took an action that is unprecedented . . . a sharp departure from the traditional commitment of this university community to the protection and encouragement of the widest possible freedom of expression," the committee found.

A Bittersweet Success for Coalition Members

At the Oct. 1986 Trustees meeting, following Coalition protests, the board voted to adopt the Sullivan Principals to guide its investments in South Africa.

This corporate code of conduct established criteria for companies to ensure that employees would be treated equally, regardless of race.

The University thus began to gradually divest itself of what the Coalition estimated were its \$70 million invested in South Africa.

The Coalition considered this only a partial victory and continued to press for further divestment. They also pressed for the Maryland National Bank to sever most of its financial ties to South Africa, an effort that later succeeded.

Additionally, it erected "gentrified" shanties to illustrate what it characterized as Hopkins's lack of upkeep on properties it owned in East Baltimore in the vicinity of the Hopkins Medical Institutions.

Reflecting on whether the Coalition was successful in achieving its goals, a leader of the group, Patrick Bond gave a definitive no.

"We lost," Bond wrote in an e-mail.

Despite the perceived loss, the Coalition's actions clearly influenced the Trustees to take a closer look at the University's investments.

"The students raised the consciousness of our trustees to take a look at our investments," Jerry Schnydmann, who was head of admissions at the time and is now Executive Assistant to the President, said.

"Their influence lay in getting the board, particularly the investment committee, to take a hard look at what's in the best interest

of the University," he said.

"The students caused the trustees to think along the lines of both issues. That might not have happened if they had not demonstrated."

The Coalition's actions also raised campus awareness about apartheid. At its peak, Bond estimates that the Coalition had 300 members. Both the *News-Letter* and Student Council voiced strong support for their cause.

The debate that the Coalition's activities raised regarding students' rights to free speech on campus caused a reexamination and reaffirmation of a basic right often taken for granted.

"Progressive movements depend on the circumstances: they do not begin as mass movements," Bill Tiefenwerth, Director of the Center for Social Concern and an Assistant Chaplain at the time of the anti-Apartheid movement, said.

"A core group of, for lack of a better term, provocateurs, got the broad spectrum thinking about things which they may not have otherwise thought of."

Although students have not recently sung "We Shall Overcome" as they faced arrest, blocked trustees from leaving a meeting by chanting and forming a human chain or staged a two week occupation of Garland Hall, Hopkins students still possess the energy, determination and idealism essential for effecting change in the community.

"Young people, by their very nature, are more open to the changing lenses of opportunity. It's a matter of consciousness-raising and having an issue to coalesce around," former Coalition member Archer said.

Next week this series will conclude by examining what issues motivate Hopkins students today and what tactics they have adopted to achieve their goals.

Endowment drop to have substantial ripple effect on local economy, Univ. expenditures

FINANCE, FROM A1

been cutting costs to try and decrease expenditures.

"So far, we have reduced our non-salary operating budget by almost 17 percent as compared to last year," he wrote in an e-mail to the *News-Letter*.

As Hopkins is Maryland's largest employer, the drop in endowment funds will have a substantial ripple effect on the local economy.

"Economists generally attribute that impact to between two and two and a half times the actual reduction," McGill wrote.

"For every \$1,000 that Hopkins does not spend that it otherwise would have spent, there will be a reduction in economic activity in the community of between \$2,000 and \$2,500."

According to McGill, the University is also anticipating less sizable donations than in the past.

Across the country, universities have varied in their approach toward maintaining financial stability.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, Harvard has taken steps to cut its losses by offering retirement incentives to 1,600 employees.

Yale President Richard Levin announced that building projects would be postponed until economic conditions improved.

In a letter to faculty and staff, Duke President Richard Brodhead noted that the University would seek to cut costs and improve efficiency. He did not mention layoffs.

In his announcement, Brody likewise outlined the measures that the University has taken so far to maintain its financial solvency.

These measures include a voluntary five percent pay cut beginning July 1 for "all members of the executive leadership," limitations on salary increases (also beginning July 1) and an immediate hiring freeze effective through June 30, 2010.

The University is also eliminating overtime except with executive approval.

Brody wrote that many divisions have had to postpone hiring new faculty, leave positions vacant and modify their budgets to cut costs.

McGill detailed some other measures that the University has taken so far.

"In central administration, we are eliminating all but absolutely necessary out-of-state travel; we are asking our suppliers of goods and services for price reductions; we are cutting back on publications; we have reduced the frequency of custodial services such as emptying our waste baskets," he wrote.

Many Hopkins undergraduates were concerned about the potential effect that the loss of endowment funds might have on their financial aid awards.

James Shin would be person-

ally affected if the University were forced to lower financial aid payments.

"I get a lot of financial aid from the government and from the school," he said.

"There's a chance that financial aid might decrease and that tuition might go up, and that's more that has to come out of my pocket."

Junior Patricia Pugh said she felt that the University should focus on preserving aid for current recipients.

"The University's endowment doesn't concern me as much as the recession's effect on eligibility for and availability of financial aid," she said. "I just didn't think that [Brody] talked about that enough."

Some students predict increased tuition as a result of the endowment's decline.

"Tuition's going to go through

the roof now," freshman Kristyn Hayashi said.

According to Amoroso, while students' concerns about immediate tuition hikes or precipitous drops in financial aid are currently unwarranted, there may be changes in the future.

"The reality is that most of our funding comes directly from tuition revenue, and our share of that has not been reduced," he wrote.

"However, loss of endowment income will have a direct impact on other areas of the University, which will put even more pressure on funding sources like tuition revenue. Eventually, this will probably be felt by most levels at the University."

Junior Richaun Tremble said he believes that the University will work hard to preserve its faculty members and professors.

"I think that if they start letting faculty members go, some of the prestige of the University may be lost, and I think Hopkins really banks itself on its reputation and its prestige," she said.

"They may cut some pro-

grams, but I think that they would do that before they let go of faculty."

McGill's comments verified Tremble's predictions.

"In particular, we do not expect to fire faculty and research staff as a result of budget pressures. Rather, we are developing ways to improve efficiency of our administrative services," Tremble wrote.

"There may be a few layoffs, but we expect to handle most of the reductions in personnel by not filling positions that are now vacant or that become vacant."

McGill noted that students could help the University by brainstorming ways to save money and increase efficiency around campus.

"We encourage students to bring forward ideas," he wrote.

In his announcement, Brody indicated that he would work closely with the president-elect Ronald Daniels to ensure continuity of response to the financial crisis during the March 2 leadership change.

NEWS & FEATURES



FILE PHOTO
The Hopkins hospital, unlike several of its peer institutions, remains fiscally stable.

Univ. hospital financially secure, despite concerns

By **THOMAS DANNER**
News & Features Editor

The Johns Hopkins Hospital has remained financially secure despite the decreased revenues seen at peer institutions.

In his e-mail announcement about the University's financial concerns, President Bill Brody wrote that the Johns Hopkins Hospital and School of Medicine could also be hit by the recession.

"Insurer reimbursements to the School of Medicine for patient care also are under pressure," he wrote.

According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the current economic climate has caused many hospitals to experience a large decrease in profit margin and an increase in costs associated with providing treatment to the uninsured.

Despite the declines at some other institutions, Hopkins has remained in the black, in part due to regulations established by the Maryland government.

In 1971, Maryland established the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC). The commission was designed to improve access to healthcare and to ensure equality of treatment.

The HSCRC effectively fixed the costs that Maryland hospitals could charge for their services.

The system is known as an "all-payer" system, in which the cost for medical service is the same regardless of whether the funds are coming from the government, insurance companies or uninsured patients.

This system was designed to make treating uninsured patients no less financially advantageous than treating patients with the ability to pay.

Hospital spokesperson Gary Stephenson noted that the hospital had no plans for cutbacks in faculty or staff.

Although the current financial climate may be causing many to become unable to pay their medical expenses, Stephenson noted that, so far, the hospital has not seen an increase in the number of patients unable to pay.

"So far, the hospital has not seen a rise in levels of uncompensated care, but it takes several months for that data to roll in, so there may be an impact," he said. "We just haven't seen it yet."

According to Stephenson, the struggle to obtain Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements has become no more essential during these trying financial times.

"That's been going on for 30 years, really," he said. "That's kind of an ongoing problem with getting adequate reimbursement from the state and federal agencies."

A hospital release announced that Hopkins spent \$2.5 million in fiscal year 2007 to help about 5,000 patients obtain approximately \$80 million of Medicaid coverage.

According to Stephenson, the hospital has not made any cutbacks in clinical staff.

"I think the leadership here is committed to not having layoffs," he said.

"That would only be an ex-

treme last resort, and I don't think we're anywhere close to that point yet."

Media relations officials at the Bayview Medical Center declined to comment but stated that their policies were coordinated with the rest of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, including the Hopkins hospital.

The Chronicle noted that while teaching hospitals comprise only six percent of the nation's hospitals, they supply 41 percent of charity care to patients who are unable to pay.

The Hopkins hospital also gives charity care, according to Stephenson.

"Strict charity care is when the hospital eats the entire cost of that person's care. It's based on the federally-established poverty levels," he said.

"It is no benefit to us to attempt to obtain payment from patients who clearly don't have the means to pay."

According to a hospital report, in fiscal year 2007, the average percentage of uncompensated care at the Hopkins Hospital was 6.6 percent, 1.5 percent lower than the statewide average.

The hospital distinguishes between two types of patients: those unable to pay and those unwilling to pay. Uncompensated care includes both groups. Those unwilling to pay are typically pursued by various means in an attempt to collect outstanding payments.

According to a hospital estimate, Hopkins spends \$32 million annually on charity care, while patients unwilling to pay accounted for a \$71 million loss for the Hopkins hospital in fiscal year 2008.

For patients who are capable of paying but cannot afford a lump sum, the hospital offers payback programs.

According to the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA), the HSCRC is responsible for the increased efficiency of most Maryland hospitals in comparison with other hospitals across the country.

According to an MHA fact sheet, hospital markups, the amount of money a hospital charges versus how much it costs the hospital to provide the service, are 21 percent in Maryland compared to the national average of 174 percent.

High markups are often imposed on patients with the ability to pay to cover the cost of treatment for the uninsured.

According to *The Chronicle*, teaching hospitals from UC Davis to the University of Michigan are facing a greater percentage of unpaid debts, shrinking profit margins and a greater percentage of uninsured patients requiring treatment.

In some cases, such losses affect the quality of medical education since professors feel the need to help out in the clinic rather than simply teach, *The Chronicle* noted.

Stephenson stated that since the Hospital is still fiscally strong, the Hopkins medical school does not have similar problems.

By **CONOR FOLEY**
Staff Writer

Stuart Leslie, a professor in the History of Science and Technology Department, specializes in the scientific history of industry and regional economic geography. He has studied the history of regional development efforts, such as attempts at recreating Silicon Valley.

On Wednesday, the *News-Letter* spoke with him about some of his work on regional development and his 15 minutes of fame in Las Vegas.

News-Letter (N-L): What originally attracted you to study the history of science and technology?

Stuart Leslie (SL): When I applied to university, I applied to the art history program. After looking at my transcript, they decided maybe this kid isn't really suited for art history, and they placed me in the history of science and technology instead. I haven't really looked back since.

N-L: How have you been able to incorporate this original interest in the arts in your study of science and technology?

SL: I've been able to come back to the arts. I do a lot of work looking at how laboratory and hospital spaces are designed and the architecture of these structures.

I've looked at what happens when schools and institutions ask big name architects to design spaces for them, such as I.M. Pei, and it turns out that often times, although these spaces are very beautiful, they're not very practical. It just confirms that scientists can work anywhere ... Students often take an interest in this, learning about the history of the lab. It's important to know about the history, given that many of them are probably going to be spending a lot of time in these spaces.

I've also been able to incorporate art in the documentation of science ... One good example of this is the use of photography in science. You see these photos of milk drops, and the coronas that form from the droplets hitting the water. Many of these were taken by Harold Edgerton at MIT using high-speed flash photography. He would say that he isn't an artist, but his work still hangs in places like MoMA (Museum of Modern Art). So, sometimes scientists can, even despite themselves, engage in art.

N-L: A lot of your work deals with 'regional advantage.' What does this mean, and where have you studied it?

SL: One thing that I studied

was the efforts to replicate Silicon Valley in other areas around the country ... [I found] most of these efforts were completely unsuccessful ... Korea was able to create a Silicon Valley, but it did so under a dictatorship. It's a lot easier to just say "this is the place" in an authoritarian regime, and to marshal all the things necessary in an authoritarian than in a pluralistic system. If the U.S. tried to do this, the debate over where this would go would go on forever.

N-L: So, what efforts at regional development have worked?

SL: I'm a skeptic when it comes to people who say they can come in and revitalize a region. I see them as snake-oil salesman ... Look at Baltimore, if all you needed was universities and federal money, Baltimore would be a huge success story. Johns Hopkins draws in lots of NIH (National Institutes of Health) money, and a lot of good research gets done here, but other than salaries and direct spending, there doesn't seem to be a whole lot that it does to help the community.

There are a lot of factors necessary to create a Silicon Valley that are outside the University's control.

N-L: What is your favorite course to teach here at Hopkins?

SL: I definitely enjoy teaching Monuments and Memory. In this class, we look at monuments such as route 66 or the Lincoln Memorial. We look at what they look like but also why they are the way they are ... [For the class,] students have to find a monument from their hometown. Most people come from places that don't have big famous monuments. Students always come back to me saying they found something really cool that they never knew about their hometown before.

I used to teach a class about the history of Las Vegas. We used to talk about the history of the city, how it developed, the use of lights and technology in the

design of the strip. The highlight of the class was a trip to Vegas. Usually there would be 13 or 15 students whom I would supervise. They wouldn't really go to sleep much while we were there, though. I stopped doing it because it became too much work to supervise a bunch of college kids in Las Vegas ... [but] we always enjoyed it.

For my 25th [marriage] anniversary, I had always told my wife that I would take her to Paris. So we stayed at the Paris, Las Vegas. We also met Oscar Goodman, the mayor of Las Vegas. One year he told us about his plans for a mob museum, so the next year the class had a group assignment to design the museum. When we went to Las Vegas, we showed him the plans, and he told us to meet him at the press conference

The main assignment in that class is an autobiography about a car experience, which usually means students talk to their parents, but it may also be their own experience from high school. Students get to hear from parents about when they were 17 years old and did these really fun road trips. I sometimes get notes from parents saying that this is a great assignment.

N-L: Do you have a favorite car trip experience?

SL: When my daughter first went to college at USC [University of Southern California]. We packed up all her shoes and blue jeans and all the things a young woman needs nowadays. We packed it all into a van, and there still wasn't room for it all. When I went to school, you just took a suitcase, you could've hitchhiked

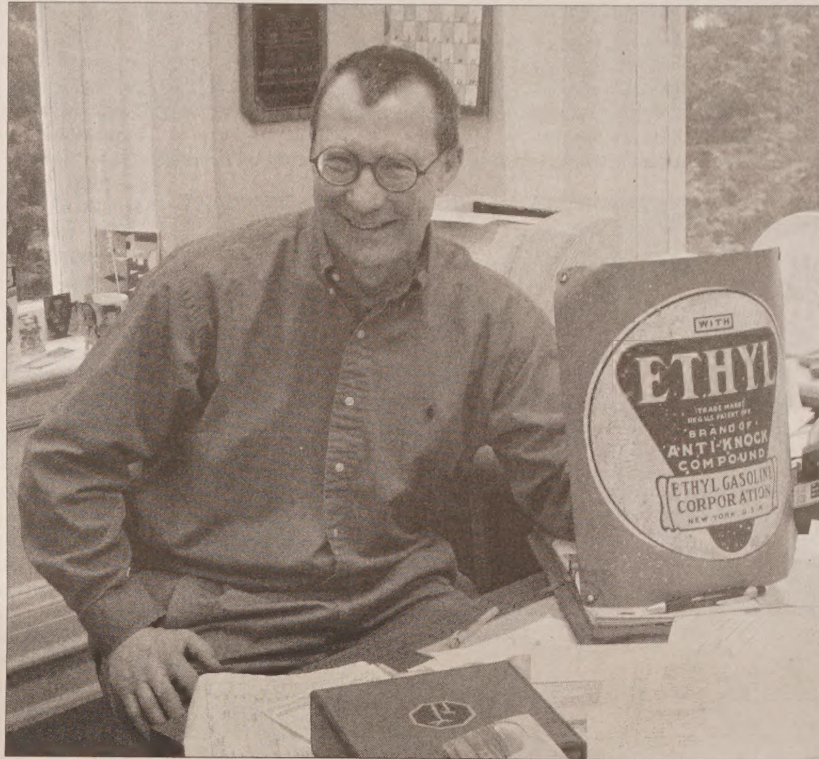


PHOTO BY SAM ECKSTEIN
Professor Stuart Leslie specializes in the scientific history of industry and its impacts on globalization.

tomorrow. We didn't know what he meant, but we met him at 11 a.m. He had been in an argument with the Nevada Preservation Society, their conservation group, and when we arrived he announced, "I have the plans for the Mob Museum, designed by the Johns Hopkins University!"

They ended up using the same architects who designed the Spy Museum, but that was the 15 minutes of fame for our class.

I also really enjoy On the Road, where we talk about the history of the automobile and car culture.

to school. We hopped into the van, and we drove all the way from Baltimore to L.A. It was one of the best times I've ever spent with my daughter.

But, nowadays, young people aren't nearly as into their cars as we used to be. When I was growing up, I spent hours fixing up my car ... but gas was only 30 cents a gallon back then. Nowadays, students are all into their cell phones and computers. Your road trips are all virtual now.

— Additional reporting by Pooja Shah.

Neighborhood complaints fuel increased police action

In conjunction with the Neighborhood Nuisance Law, local police are to write up incident reports

COMPLAINTS, FROM A1

Carrie Bennett sent an e-mail to a number of students and campus leaders to alert them of the new order reminding them to be proactive in avoiding trouble with the police.

Bennett's e-mail also warned students of a potential consequence of the policy change, especially in light of the Neighborhood Nuisance Law, which states that two written reports in a six-month period are grounds for eviction of the tenant.

Dana Peterson Moore, president of the Charles Village Civic Association (CVCA), said that while she thinks the community has a good relationship with the Hopkins students who live in Charles Village overall, she pointed to a series of exceptions, mostly on 33rd Street and University Parkway, where several Charles Village residents live alongside undergraduate students.

"There seems to be a constant problem with students gathering, being loud and rowdy and disrespectful, to the point where the community is ready to seek prosecutions for that type of conduct," she said.

In her widely distributed e-mail, Bennett explained that being forced to write up a report when they previously would not have had to would likely upset the officer.

"I have reason to believe that

many officers will justify having to write a report by also making arrests," she wrote.

Gibson, on the other hand, insisted that officers would not simply make an arrest because they have to write up a report.

"We have had a lot of pressure from the community — people saying we haven't taken significant action. We are trying to make sure we take appropriate steps," he said.

Although she is supportive of the actions that the police have been taking, Peterson Moore expressed her hope that being forced to write up a report would not deter officers from responding to calls that involve students.

"There is a reluctance to respond if an officer knows that a report has to be written if the incident is minor or resolved by the time they get there," she said.

She hopes that the officers will "do a thorough investigation to determine the nature of the call and write detailed, accurate reports."

She also expressed her hope that "those who are the source of

the problem ... understand that a report will be written."

Bennett had a similar message for Hopkins students.

"I would ask that all our students be mindful about noise levels when walking off campus," Bennett wrote in an e-mail to the *News-Letter*.

"Many of our students who plan a social event at their house or apartment are aware of the steps necessary to keep

party noises down, but they are not doing enough to ask their guests to be mindful of the neighbors when arriving and departing a residence."

Bennett's e-mail to student leaders also mentioned a series of student arrests that had occurred since the policy change began about a week ago.

Officer Gibson confirmed that this past weekend two Loyola students were arrested for disorderly conduct in the Lake Evesham neighborhood north of Hopkins, and one student from Towson was issued a citation.

Hopkins Greek Life Coordinator Rob Turning said he is aware of the new order and is confident

that Hopkins's fraternities will avoid any trouble.

"Fraternities have the infrastructure in place to handle this. They have a president, social chair and other officers whose duty it is to make sure laws are upheld."

Fraternity presidents echoed Turning's sentiments. Sigma Chi president Shawn Fu expressed concern about the fairness of the order.

"Students causing noise violations aren't always Hopkins students. There are some people in the neighborhood who just don't like students who will be happy to see the new order," he said.

Fu said that he does not believe his own fraternity to be an instigator of nuisance issues.

"We had no complaints last semester. We have a lot of measures in place to minimize noise impact and activity outside, and we have good neighbors, so it shouldn't affect us that much," he said.

Sigma Phi Epsilon president Dante Ross had a similar reaction.

"This probably shouldn't affect us too much. We work hard to have good relationships with our neighbors, and we are active with GRIA [Greater Remington Improvement Association] in working to improve our neighborhood," he said.

— Additional reporting by Colin Ray

NEWS & FEATURES

Baltimore artists and eccentrics find haven in Copy Cat Building

By REBECCA FISHBEIN
Staff Writer

As a city known for its high crime and murder rate, it is often easy to forget that Baltimore is home to some of the country's most creative aspiring artists. Charm City has birthed everything from The American Visionary Arts Museum to MICA to Dan Deacon's Wham City Collective.

Nestled on plaster-spattered Guilford Street is the Copy Cat Building, an old brick warehouse that has housed many of the inventive artists who have since become fixtures of local Baltimore.

In 1983, owner Charles Lankford purchased the building — which got its name from a Copy Cat Printing company billboard that stood on its roof for decades — in the hopes of morphing it from just another decrepit Baltimore relic to a series of studios and lofts in which struggling artists could work and create.

At first, the Copy Cat could only legally allow its tenants to use the facilities as a workplace,

as the City had it zoned as a commercial building. But Lankford found that many of the artists had begun to move beds into their studios; in order to lessen the legal troubles that may have arisen as a result, he pushed to get the Copy Cat's classification to residential zoning.

For about 15 years, the Copy Cat building, which is conveniently located a few blocks from Penn Station, built up notoriety among the burgeoning Baltimore hipster scene for the outrageous parties and drug fests held in its open lofts. One particular room, dubbed "The Penthouse" by those in the know, became especially prone to playing host to some of the most riotous events



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
One resident's living room contains a full-wall mural.

in the city.

Underground concerts, dance performances and comedy shows were also common occurrences in drafty basements and individual studio spaces. Recently, however, Lankford and the building's management have done their best to maintain a less wild clientele, keeping the ravers out and the artists in.

But while the Copy Cat may no longer be considered the number one place to get stoned in Baltimore, its tenants are no less ingenious than the ones of years past.

The paint-chipped walls in the hallways are lined with prints, portraits and photographs put up by past and present residents. Half-finished canvases are propped up against doors and in stairwells.

The infamous Penthouse, now more of an open loft rather than a drug-fueled playspace, features ever-changing murals and other visual pieces along its walls.

Graffiti etched on windowpanes and along dimly lit corridors serves as a reminder of the creative clientele that have filed in and out of the building over the decades.

The units in the Copy Cat are particularly unique in that the building's management allows its residents to utilize their spaces in

whichever way they see fit, provided that the individual renovations do not violate the building code.

This ultimate freedom of design means that each loft and studio features its own form of architecture.

One room, for instance, contains a self-built loft and bathroom, while another harbors a partitioned bedroom and kitchenette. Left-behind decorations also add a personal touch to the rooms; one small studio featured a mosaic made of 1970s records and album covers.

Additionally, there are several larger spaces that have been turned into dormitory-like bedrooms and studio spaces, allowing dozens of residents to rent out a single room while simultaneously sharing a communal workplace with their peers.

These rooms come at a much lower cost than would an individual studio, thus making it easier for those not living on a steady income to find affordable housing.

Artwork and freedom of individual expression are not the Copy Cat building's only draws. The old warehouse's set-up and low rent costs — the studios can run for as low as \$600 a month — are a big draw to creative types from all over Baltimore, thus causing the building to manifest a sense of community that may be harder to find in the city.

Virtually all of the Copy Cat's residents are artists, writers, comedians or musicians. The hallways run rich with the sound of off-beat guitar hooks and the wafting scents of incense and burning candles.

Male and female residents alike seem to own a requisite amount of plaid shirts, keffiyehs and skinny jeans.

Flyers for Ottobar shows featuring bands with names like Clownpunch and The Very Small litter the floors and stick out of rusted mailboxes.

"The Copy Cat is a cool place to live," one resident, a struggling playwright, said. It certainly seems like that's the case.



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
One artist in residence showed off a portrait that hangs in his own living room.

CORRECTIONS

The photo accompanying the basketball article on B12 of the previous issue should have been credited to Eileen Huang.

The photo accompanying *Last Week Live* on B3 should have been credited to Christina Warner.

The caption of the photo of the Barnstormers play on B3 was of Christen Cromwell, not Christina Cromwell.

The *News-Letter* regrets these errors.



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
A collection of artists have banded together to make this mural in a residence hall.

Celebrate Commemoration Day

Friday, February 20

Birthday Party

Levering Hall 12noon ~ 2pm

- Free birthday cake
- Theatrical reenactment of President Gilman's inaugural address at 1pm
- Free t-shirt to first 500 students wearing Hopkins apparel (J-card required)
- Students, faculty, and staff welcome

Men's Lacrosse vs. Siena

Homewood Field 6pm

For the Kids Sock Hop

Athletic Center back gym 9pm ~ 3am

- \$5 entrance fee (cash only)
- Dance through the decades
- A cappella performances
- Food and fun!
- Proceeds benefit Johns Hopkins Children's Center



NEWS & FEATURES

Playing in the national spotlight, Blue Jays don't feel the pressure

Men's lacrosse seniors cultivate familial feeling on the team as they try to win their third championship in five years

LACROSSE, FROM A1
organized a Jan. 29 lacrosse info session, where they gave out lacrosse tickets and pizza to the student body, the team is a rallying device for alumni, particularly former Jays.

"[The alumni] are like your older siblings. They always come back to check on you," Evans said of the former players.

At games, like last Saturday's scrimmage against Cornell, alumni of all ages filled the stands.

"Coach always talks about how it's an interesting dynamic as a lacrosse player at a school where you're the major sport. It's a big deal here to be a part of the lacrosse team," Dolente said.

Because of this emphasis and attention on the team, Coach Pietramala and the players are conscious about their image on campus.

"We're not just lax players. We're students too, we're students first — student athletes. We try to make it to as many

different things as we can and show our support," Evans said.

"So I hope when we get recognized off the field it's in a good way, in a positive way."

Evans acknowledged that despite these efforts he and his teammates still need to branch out from the lacrosse team into different social groups.

"When I was in Wolman, we had a bunch of great friends who don't play any sports, just great guys. Obviously we're going to be together off the field, but we're not going to be exclusive; we spread it out and that's one thing we really have got to try and do better, with people from different sports and regular students," he said.

The team has certain self-imposed rules off the field that ensure that players act appropriately off the field.

Players are not allowed to wear hats inside buildings, must hold doors open for others and sit in the front row of all their classes.

Aside from extra attention

off the field, the lacrosse team is subject to intense scrutiny on the field.

Nine of their 13 regular season games will be televised nationally.

This year the pressure is particularly strong.

Many of the team's stars graduated last year, including Paul Rabil '08, "arguably the best midi [midfielder] ever to come through Hopkins," according to senior Matt Drenan.

When Pietramala took the helm at Hopkins as head coach in 2000, the Jays were in the middle of a 13-year draught without an NCAA championship.

1987 was Pietramala's only championship season as a player.

Since he arrived, they have played in four title games with victories in 2005 and 2007.

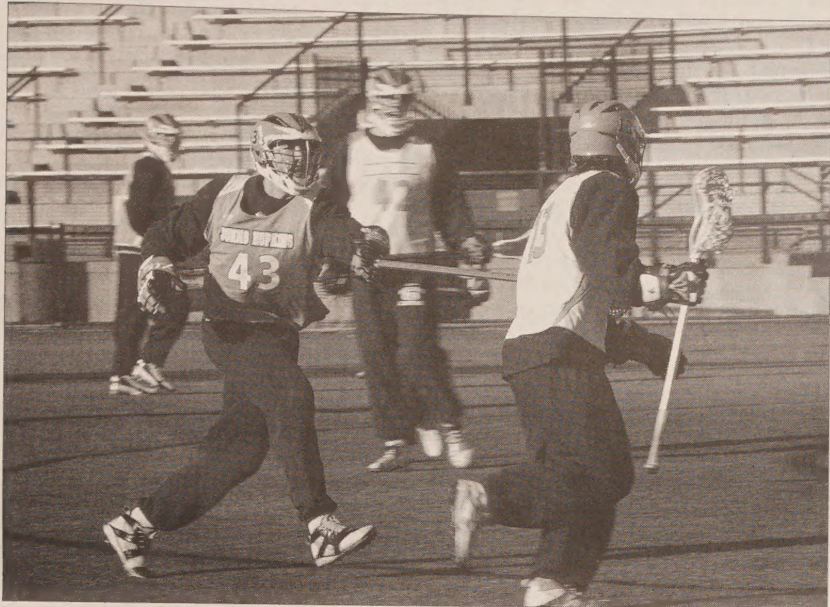
This success has put the Hopkins lacrosse team back to the forefront of the lacrosse world.

"The more success you have, the more expectations grow. People expect you to win the



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Members of the men's lacrosse team drop for pushups while doing drills during a pre-season practice.



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Senior Matt Drenan, left, defends a teammate during a recent practice. They face Sienna tomorrow at 6 p.m.

championship every year, but that's unrealistic," Pietramala said.

"It is realistic to compete for the championship every year. We try to meet that. No team wins four years in a row. The greatest pressure these guys face is from me and my staff," Pietramala said.

"I don't think there should be anything such as external pressure."

Drenan echoed this

sentiment, saying the only pressure is internal.

Even if the players don't feel "external" pressure from the University, their fans around the world or the press, the pressure from Pietramala is intense, according to players.

"Paul Rabil played big and strong, how about you?" Pietramala repeatedly asked the team as they ran drills during a practice last week, often substituting Rabil's name with other Jay greats.

In the weight room, following one practice that came after a scrimmage loss to Penn State, Pietramala notified the team they would not be served Fri-

day night dinner with him, as is custom.

"No dinner until you play like a Hopkins lacrosse team is supposed to," he said.

Pietramala also does not hesitate to throw a player out of practice if he feels he's not playing up to standard, and he has no qualms whatsoever about using whatever language necessary to convey his point.

Playing for Pietramala at Homewood Field, where nine championship banners hang, players embrace the challenge before them, according to Evans.

"It's a really special thing to be a part of a tradition like that.

All those All-Americans and championships that have been won here, you get to be a part of that and try to leave your stamp on that legacy, too," Dolente said.

While they look up to the former Jays, the current players do not worry too much about filling their shoes.

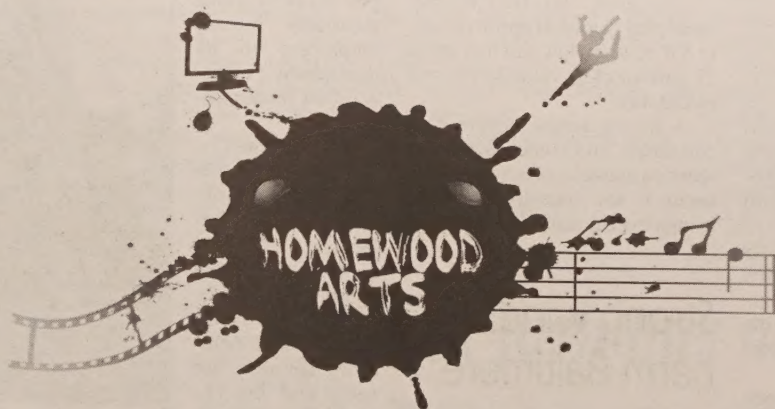
"You can't replace guys like [last year's seniors]: You can't replace anybody. You just try and reach your potential," Evans said.

"One thing we learned from the senior class is how hard they worked."

On a team where many of the upperclassmen have played in two national championship games and know what it's like to play in the biggest game, what many may view as pressure, the Jays say they view as a challenge and an opportunity.

The Jays will face Sienna for the season opener tomorrow at 6 p.m. on Homewood Field.

Act? Dance? Sing? Play music? Create art?



Apply for the

Homewood Arts Certificate

A certificate program to acknowledge significant participation in the non-academic arts at JHU

Juniors: application due March 2

Info & materials at: <http://artsprograms.jhu.edu>

click on: "Arts Certificate Info"

Questions?

Contact Homewood Arts Programs at: ebeatty@jhu.edu

Athletic Department to disband M. and W. crew at end of season

CREW, FROM A1

equipment became too much.

Calder also stressed that Baltimore is not the most ideal city to harbor a crew team. Despite the rowing clubs downtown, Baltimore is not like Princeton, for example, where a stream runs through campus, according to Calder.

The crew teams learned of the decision last Thursday morning. The team members received an e-mail on Wednesday night from Associate Director of Athletics Mike Renwick, stating that there would be a crew team meeting at 8 a.m. on Thursday with mandatory attendance.

"We showed up, and we actually had practice that morning so the whole team was out at the meeting early," senior men's captain Taylor Reese said. "And Tom Calder and Mike Renwick walked in together, and pretty much first thing that came out of Calder's mouth was, 'The crew team will no longer exist as of next year.'"

Perry was informed of the decision about 30 minutes before his rowers.

"I was told last Thursday morning. I had no input," Perry said.

After hearing of the decision, team members had a wide range of initial reactions, from anger, to shock, to understanding.

"I was really peeved," sophomore Beth Simmonds said. "I came to Hopkins because I was recruited for coxswain [the rower at the end of the boat responsible for coordination, steering and motivation]. It is something I've been doing for five and half years now. I was really upset, because I felt like I had been completely shafted."

For Reese, who has been rowing for Hopkins for four years, the

announcement was numbing.

"I was in shock. It really didn't hit me right away," Reese said. "Calder was taking questions and other teammates were reacting with these harsh questions. It didn't actually really hit me until I was walking away from the meeting, and I got kind of emotional, and I really started to think about what that really actually meant for me and for Hopkins crew."

Women's captain Madison West, who has rowed at Hopkins since her sophomore year, said she was upset with the decision but understood where the Athletic Department's decision was coming from.

"I understand with the economy the reasoning behind it. I was disappointed because I've been working hard all year to help the team for future years, just getting the girls team to grow and become stronger and develop leaders at an earlier age. After the initial shock, I couldn't really be angry, because it wasn't like they wanted to do this. It was a tough position for them, with less money coming in."

With the deadline for transfer applications fast approaching, there was a rationale behind the timing of this decision.

"Three students admitted early decision were recruited for crew," Calder said. "If they decide not to come here, the admissions office has said it will help release them from early admission, and help them get into another school. We also wanted to give our athletes some time, if anybody wanted to consider transferring. I don't know if that will be the case. It's a little late but we can still help them."

One of these athletes is sophomore Will Cooper, who has been

rowing since high school and is looking at his options for transferring to another school which has a varsity crew program.

"I wouldn't have applied to Hopkins if they didn't have a crew team," Cooper said. "It's hard to blame the administration because of the hard economic times. But at the same time, I wouldn't be here if I hadn't expected to be able to row. Transfer deadlines are March 15 for the most part, so it's a little tight. A little more heads up would have been nice."

Simmonds has also begun to explore her options for switching schools.

"I just met with the athletic director today, and I've been in contact with my coaches from high school, and we're looking into [transferring]," Simmonds said. "At this point it's still early, but the directors have been very supportive and willing to make some phone calls to coaches at other school with equal or better academic reputations. I chose to come here because of the academics and the opportunities available, yet I was under the impression that I'd have crew available all four years."

Word of the sudden termination of varsity crew spread fast, and within the last week two Hopkins crew alumni, Doug Keen and John Faulkingham, started an online Web petition and Web site, save.jhu-crew.org, which have been quickly gaining the support of alumni, current team members and friends of the Hopkins crew teams.

"The site first went up on Monday, in response to John Faulkingham's call for pledges from team alumni and friends of the team," said Keen. "As of Tuesday

morning, we had almost \$18,000 pledged for the 2009 to 2010 season, and almost \$10,000 a year for 2010 to 2014. The team costs the Athletic Center around \$200,000 a year, so we're trying to get as close to that figure as possible, and we believe we have enough support to accomplish that."

But according to Calder, even if the money were raised, Hopkins would not continue to sponsor crew.

"Once we decided to drop the programs we decided that it would be on a permanent basis and fundraising dollars would not be utilized to support the programs in the future," Calder said. "This decision would have been made regardless of the poor economic condition."

"We told the athletes we're not going to start a club team because it's still going to be expensive, and you won't have the supervision on the water that we have with our current coaching staff," Calder said. One of Perry's accomplishments in turning the team from club to varsity was increasing the program's on-water safety measures.

"Prior to becoming a varsity sport, crew had only limited regard to the dangers of unsupervised rowing without appropriate safety equipment," Perry said.

Even though Hopkins will not sponsor a club team, there are organizations in Baltimore which could allow students to be involved in rowing, such as the Baltimore City Rowing Club.

"In spite of the times, the City of Baltimore has a multi-million dollar expansion of the boathouse planned for 2011," Perry said.

There were also rumors amongst some members and alumni of the crew team that the



LYDIA ALCOCK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Hopkins crew, from left: (back row) Kevin Chen, Uejin Kim, Amelia Whitman, Clifton Jenkins-Houk; (front) Bob Huang, Adali Martinez, Beth Simmonds, Madison West, Marc Webb.

Hodson Trust, which donates hundreds of thousands in scholarship money each year to Hopkins, stipulated that in order to receive money from the trust, Hopkins must sponsor a crew team. But according to Finn Caspersen, the chairman of the Hodson Trust, while money from the trust was utilized by the crew team nearly two decades ago, "there were no conditions, ongoing or otherwise, attached to this grant. The administration of the crew program lies entirely within the purview of the University administration."

Crew, which has been a varsity sport at Hopkins since 1989, is currently one of 26 varsity athletic programs the department sponsors.

According to Calder, this is not the first time that Hopkins

has had to cut a varsity sport. Rifle, squash and golf all used to be varsity sports at Hopkins, but for various reasons those sports, like crew, were discontinued.

Even though this will be the last season of varsity crew at Hopkins, both the men's and women's team members are trying to maintain a positive outlook towards the upcoming spring season.

"I think we definitely want to go out with a bang," West said. "We want to show the school as a whole just what they are losing, because I feel we're one of the most dedicated sports in the school. We just want to end on a high note."

The teams will compete for the final time on May 8 at the prestigious Dad Vail Regatta in Philadelphia.

Della withdraws beer pong bill

Senator George Della Jr., a Baltimore Democrat, ended his petition to ban drinking games in city bars on Feb.11.

His efforts to curb games he believes encourage excessive alcohol consumption and rowdy behavior were challenged by online petitions from leagues of beer pong players.

The bill he proposed last month would have prohibited games in which drinks are given as prizes.

Della believes that games such as beer pong and flip cup are an issue for Baltimore neighborhoods.

The proposed legislation circulated throughout the Internet, and fans of the games responded with angry e-mails.

The legislation was soon withdrawn the evening after its first introduction to committee.

The owners of local bars and business say that such games bring in a lot of money and that beer pong and flip cup tournaments have been held to fundraise for charities.

Several states have laws banning drinking games, and a number of colleges have banned the games as well.

Della said there was no time to tamper with an issue met with such opposition and that he hopes people who continue to engage in drinking activities will do so responsibly and respectfully.

Harvard to offer retirement incentives next week

Staff members at Harvard will receive retirement incentive packages as part of a process that could conclude with layoffs.

The staff will have 45 days to accept or decline their offer. Afterwards, Harvard will reexamine budgets and determine whether or not layoffs are necessary.

Administrators have been warned against advising staff as to whether they should accept the package, even if they believe the staff member might be laid off.

The University could face legal problems if suggestions on the knowledge of future employment are revealed.

Staff members are eligible if

they are over 55 years of age and have worked at Harvard for at least 10 years as of June 30 this year.

Each package is being tailored to its recipient, and approximately 1,000 of 3,500 staff members are eligible.

The plan seeks to lessen the stress on the University's resources by offering staff the option of early retirement.

The package will likely be a lump sum payment.

Last June, Harvard's endowment was valued at approximately \$37 million, but had lost about 22 percent of its value by the end of October.

A hiring freeze occurred in November and some staffers are worried about layoffs, which may occur if the incentive package brings insufficient reductions.

Strong winds harm Baltimore

Strong westerly winds accompanied a cold front to the Baltimore area on Feb. 12.

Winds ranged from 25 to 35 miles per hour, and gusts reached up to 60 miles per hour.

The winds knocked out the power of thousands of residents and three Harford Schools.

Disabled traffic signals and the collapse of an abandoned rowhouse in West Baltimore's Upton neighborhood were also attributed to the wind.

The Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) reported a total of 2,974 customers without power out of 1,259,530 as of 9:46 p.m. that day.

The Baltimore County Circuit Court was closed due to a power outage, causing about 170 cases to be postponed.

A wind-fanned brush fire north of the Liberty Reservoir was attended to by the Baltimore County Fire Department and reported under control by 2:30 p.m.

The majority of power outages were reported in the northern parts of the city and some neighborhoods south of downtown, such as Federal Hill, according to BGE.

The Maryland Transportation Authority issued a wind warning for the Key Bridge in Baltimore, the Bay Bridge on the Chesapeake Bay as well as the Hatem Bridge in Havre de Grace.

Such a warning is issued when winds reach 30 to 39 miles per hour.

Sun cuts funding

The Baltimore Sun will undergo further staff reductions, though it is unclear how many people may lose their jobs.

The newspaper plans to move suburban bureau employees to its downtown office, a union leader announced.

The Tribune Co., the owner of The Sun, filed for bankruptcy in December.

The lease agreements for offices in Anne Arundel, Howard and Baltimore counties are set to end, but The Sun will not lose its bureaus in D.C. and Annapolis, Md.

Changes in the coverage of Baltimore and surrounding areas are expected.

Since December 2005 the paper has experienced four rounds of buyouts and layoffs and has seen its five foreign bureaus close. This past July, The Sun eliminated 55 jobs in the newsroom and about 100 jobs overall.

The Sun recently lost a competitor, The Examiner, which shut down and printed its final issue Sunday.

Facebook Settles Accusations

Facebook.com paid \$65 million to settle claims that the social networking site's founder Mark Zuckerberg stole elements from rival ConnectU, according to a California-based legal publication.

The ConnectU founders filed a lawsuit in 2004 that accused Zuckerberg of using their code to create his own site.

All founders were Harvard graduates and Zuckerberg worked for ConnectU as an undergraduate.

When the firms settled the case last April, it was intended that the figure was to be kept private. In June, the ConnectU



COURTESY OF DAVID SHANKBONE
Cooper Union expects 3,300 applications for 265 spots in the class of 2013.

founders appealed to a district judge in San Jose claiming they were deceived and accepted stocks worth less than Facebook implied. The judge rejected ConnectU's appeals.

The settlement sum has been said by an intellectual property litigator to be more than the cost of the defense but only a small percentage of Facebook's value, which is about \$4 billion, according to recent estimates.

The admission of the figure has led to speculation on the reasons behind the settlement.

Harvard Law School Professor Phillip R. Malone stated that ConnectU could be entitled to more if their claims are valid.

Applications Surge at Cooper Union

Current economic conditions have prompted the number of early decision applications to Cooper Union to increase by about 70 percent this year.

The school is among the nation's most competitive colleges and has a commitment to full scholarship regardless of need.

Early decision is said to be a way for students to demonstrate strong interest, which, in combination with the economy, made the inundation of applications a probable occurrence.

The admissions rate is about eight percent and applications have multiplied since 2000.

The amount of early decision applications experienced its biggest surge for the class of 2013, after previous annual increases of five to 10 percent.

This year the school expected to receive 3,300 applications for 265 spots, as well as 750 applications for 30 places in the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture.

The admissions office and faculty members are busy, especially since they must review portfolios that include take-home tests.

These tests provide an indication of a student's creativity, drawings, architectural models and narrative writing.

The school administrators believe the test can reveal talents that grades and SAT scores cannot.

The college assigns about \$35 million to cover the costs of tuition each year.

Since Cooper is invested in real estate more so than stocks, its endowment has fared better than most and is currently valued at \$594 million.

— All written by Tara Brailey



COURTESY OF BULLETINBLOG.NET
Harvard is offering its staff retirement incentives in an effort to avoid layoffs.

NEWS & FEATURES

Hopkins, it's over ... and it's not me, it's you



COURTESY OF MARIE CUSHING
The Taj Mahal is the most beautiful monument in the entire world, according to our columnist in India.

Dear John(s Hopkins),
I'm just writing this to tell you it's over. We're through. I've moved on, found a new love — a love called India.

Before I left for the semester abroad, I thought we could make this long-distance thing work. I thought I could hold on to all the good times we shared. But how can I go back to long nights of studying when I've slept in the desert, staring up at countless stars while the camel I rode on earlier snores gently nearby? How can being drunk and sweaty in the basement of SAE compare with dancing bhangra barefoot in the cool grass? How could even the cutest campus rabbit or squirrel compare to parrots, monkeys and elephants?

And here I've seen the Taj Mahal, the most beautiful monument in the entire world, so spectacular it doesn't look real even when you're standing at its base or touching the cool marble. Its pristine white dome and majestic pillars gleam in the sunshine, a testament of undying love from a Mughal emperor to his dead wife. What have you ever given me, Hopkins? Gilman Hall? Oh, wait, that's closed now. The library?

Some testament of love that is.

Sure, India's got its flaws. I don't deny that. My Internet is spotty at best. I miss bagels and sushi. There are no showers — I have to take bucket baths. And let's not get started on the lack of toilet paper...

(To be serious for a moment, India does have major problems extending beyond my minor complaints. Poverty is in your face in a way it really isn't in America — homeless on every corner, colonies of people pitching tents and making homes on mounds of gar-

bage. A man came up to my taxi one time, cradling a small baby, her arm mangled. Her skin looked like it had been burnt. It broke my heart to refuse his request for two rupees, because what's that money to me? A couple of cents? But as anyone who's seen *Slumdog Millionaire* knows, there is the idea that these beggars are merely a front for organized crime, and these underworld dons are often causing horrible injuries to beggars as a way to garner more sympathy and money. Whether this is true or just an excuse made by those unwilling to give money so they can feel better about themselves, is up for debate, but in the meantime I soothe my conscious by giving out bananas or crackers instead.)

But India has given me so much. I'm learning Hindi, figuring out a culture completely different from my own and meeting

some of the most interesting people. Very few people speak English well, but they always smile at my pitiful attempts at Hindi. There are some drawbacks — I feel like I am stared at constantly, as if the men expect me to break into some slutty gyrations like all the white girls in Bollywood music videos do. Our group went to visit Humayan's Tomb, and what was supposed to be a serene visit to enjoy lovely architecture turned into a taste of what it must be like to be Angelina Jolie. A group of 700 schoolboys — no exaggeration — was touring the site at the same time, and we were swarmed. Everyone wanted a picture taken, or to shake our hands or to practice their English with us.

But if I need a little dose of America, I have two places to turn to. The first is my host sister, Manu. Before I met Manu, I had never met anyone who matched the stereotypical American teen-

Marie Cushing Guest Column



COURTESY OF MARIE CUSHING
One of the many beauties in India that just can't be compared with Gilman Hall or MSE.

The facts about food-borne illnesses

I could live off peanut butter. My favorite thing to do is spread a piece of bread with chunky peanut butter and honey and sprinkle a few corn flakes on it, then munch away. I made myself a pb-and-honey sandwich last week for a snack on a plane ride, and halfway through the first flight, I felt like I was going to spray those sitting next to me with half-masticated chunks of soggy bread and honey.

I blamed this on turbulence. But three days later, I was home in Baltimore and still suffering from vertigo, nausea, fatigue and tummy aches. Suspecting foul play, I chucked my peanut butter and remaining bread, as well as the fruit-nut snack bars I so adore. This is only my second encounter with food poisoning; it's been miserable.

Food poisoning can be caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites and chemicals. We most commonly hear of food poisoning by various types of bacteria, most notably, *Salmonellae*, *E. coli* and *Campylobacter*.

Salmonellae are bacteria passed to humans through the guts of animals, including meat animals and poultry. *Salmonella* is generally caused by consuming undercooked poultry or dairy products, but has recently been associated with contaminated peanut butter. *Salmonellae* survive by inadequate cooking and are often passed from contaminated surfaces to other food.

Salmonella symptoms generally occur one to three days after infection and include fever, nausea and vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhea and headaches. In some cases, *salmonella* can escape from the gut into other organs, and may cause a chronic infection. In most people with robust immune systems, symptoms will disappear within four to seven days, but in people with weaker immune systems, such as the very old or very young, or those with HIV, a *Salmonella* infection can be life-threatening. If infected, it's important to drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated, particularly if you suffer from

acute diarrhea. If the infection spreads outside the intestines, antibiotics can be prescribed.

Next, *E. coli*. *E. coli* infections are generally associated with contaminated water or undercooked beef. *E. coli* infections are a growing cause of food-borne illnesses, with an estimated 73,000 cases in the U.S. each year (CDC). While generally Baltimoreans don't have to worry about contaminated water, people going camping or hiking have to watch out for their water supply. If the latrine is placed too close to the water source, human waste, which is chock-full of *E. coli*, can pollute the water and cause serious infections.

E. coli infections can cause awful symptoms, mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. The serious symptoms include bloody, watery stool and abdominal pain, mild fever, nausea and vomiting. These symptoms may occur one to eight days after infection. In two to seven percent of people, infections can lead to a dangerous complication called hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), which can cause profuse bleeding, red blood cell destruction and kidney failure.

There is no specific treatment for an *E. coli* infection other than to drink a lot of fluids to counter the dehydrating effects of watery

diarrhea, and to wait out the infection by pooping out all the bad bacteria. Most people will recover on their own within 10 days. In the case of serious complications, hospital treatment is often necessary.

Next, the most common cause of diarrhea in people worldwide — *Campylobacter*. *Campylobacter* are also found in contaminated meats and almost all raw poultry. *Campylobacter* grow happily in the intestines of most healthy birds, but can also be transmitted by other raw meat and unpasteurized milk.

Like our other bacterial illnesses, a *Campylobacter* infection will cause abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and fever two to five days after infection. Most people recover quickly, several days after the onset of symptoms, but occasionally there will be serious life-threatening complications, such as spreading infections to the blood, pancreas and liver, reactive arthritis or a rare disease called Guillain-Barré syndrome, causing paralysis resulting in respiratory and neurological problems, and sometimes death.

As in our other bacterial illnesses, it's best to simply stay hydrated and wait out the infection, although antibiotics may be prescribed in more serious cases.

There are many other bacteria that can cause similar infections, such as *Staphylococcus*, found in dairy products and some salads, *Shigella*, caused by fecal contamination of water and botulism, which causes serious illnesses that affect the nervous system, causing drooping eyelids and blurred vision.

The best way to avoid food-borne illnesses is to wash your hands, thoroughly wash and cook your food and avoid licking cake batter spoons. Most infections will go away on their own within a week or two, although serious complications can occur. If you notice recurrent diarrhea or stomach pain after eating peanut butter or hamburger patties, don't take it lightly — toss the stuff, drink some boiled water and call your doctor.



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

A new generation of pizza at an old standby

Ever heard of a Mac and Cheese pizza? How about Baked Ziti pizza? Spam Pizza, anyone? Maybe Spam doesn't sound so appetizing, but I do have to give the cooks at BOP — Brick Oven Pizza — credit for originality.

BOP, one of the most innovative pizza restaurants I have found in Baltimore, has been a mainstay in the Fells Point area for the past 12 years. It's located on Broadway Street, in the middle of a popular nightlife area.

Better yet, BOP is open late — until 3 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, making it the perfect post-barhopping destination.

Outside, BOP resembles an old-fashioned pizza parlor, like one you might find on a New York City street corner. Inside, the tabletops depict cartoonish maps of Fells Point, and the walls are colorfully illustrated with sites from the Fells Point area.

BOP satisfies every kind of pizza craving, whether for a Mac and Cheese pizza or just a traditional Margarita pizza. All the pizzas are cooked in a brick oven between 750 and 900 degrees Fahrenheit and can be ordered by the slice or as a whole pie.

The menu can be a bit overwhelming, as there are so many different toppings to choose from — artichoke hearts, basil, broccoli, eggplant, mushrooms, pineapple, potatoes, sun-dried tomatoes, meatballs, cream cheese, gorgonzola cheese, crab meat, shrimp and more. BOP also offers customers the chance to concoct unique, sometimes daring new breeds of pizzas.

For the less adventurous, or those too hungry to select from a bevy of toppings, BOP also offers pre-designed, specialty pizzas.

The Cheese Steak pizza is topped with sirloin steak, cherry peppers, mushrooms, onions, green peppers, fresh tomatoes and mozzarella cheese. There's also the Meat Lovers pizza, which comes with beef, bacon, pepperoni, sausage, Canadian bacon, salami and mozzarella cheese.

For those who aren't in the mood for pizza, BOP also has salads, pasta and overstuffed wraps. The wraps sounded appealing because they contain the same dough as the pizzas.

If you're really feeling bold,

try the Chocolate Pizza for dessert. It consists of a puff pastry topped with raspberry preserves, dark and white chocolate, which is then baked in the brick oven. It can also be topped with strawberries, bananas or kiwis.

While you wait, feel free to waste some quarters on the arcade-style *Cruisin' USA* or *Pac-Man* games. Talk about a blast from the past.

I decided to order my pizza by the slice, spontaneously ordering a slice with mushrooms and pro-



Elizabeth Laseter Food Fan-addict

sciutto, an Italian ham. I wasn't sure if mushrooms and Italian ham would go together, but I was pleasantly surprised! The salty flavor of the prosciutto blended nicely with the mild taste of the mushrooms.

The rest of the pizza's ingredients were also a hit. The tomato sauce was light and not too acidic. The crust, warm and toasty with a hint of cornmeal, was my favorite part. The cheese was a little sparse, so be careful not to pull it all off in one bite (like I did multiple times!).

I ordered another slice with spinach and ricotta cheese, a combination I had never tried before. There was just enough ricotta cheese on the pizza, saving it from being too rich.

My companion ordered a slice of four-cheese white pizza, which he thoroughly enjoyed. I'm not usually a fan of white pizza (I've got to have the tomato sauce), but BOP's has a nice combination of ricotta, mozzarella, provolone and white cheddar cheeses.

BOP's pricing is also very reasonable: I only paid \$15 for the four very large slices we ordered, which was more than enough food.

Overall, the food at BOP will suit nearly anyone. Its more traditional offerings will satisfy cravings for a classic pizza, while the options for nearly endless customization are enough to keep a true pizza aficionado fed for weeks.

BRICK OVEN PIZZA

Location: 800 South Broadway St.
Phone: (410) 563-1600
Hours: Sunday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to midnight
Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 a.m.

Fall fashions are chic but utilitarian

I started reading Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* during the summer before college. I got a short way into it before stopping and putting the book aside to gather dust.

Now on a seemingly unrelated note, New York Fashion Week is here and with it comes a slew of fantastically designed clothing. I bring up *The Road* because it seems to be a main source of influence on the runways. Almost every designer is thinking ahead and producing clothing for the future world. Whether the future is a post-apocalyptic barren world of ash or a hard-hit capitalist industry where everyday is a struggle, depends on the specific designer, but it's certainly noticeable that Fall 2009 fashion is based on a strong utilitarian theme with undertones of imminent catastrophe.

Young designer Richard Chai opened his show with a dark silhouette of clothing: black army boots, black velvet pants and a dark navy plaid overcoat on a very stern-faced model. The theme continued throughout the collection with the disheveled army boots and baggy pants combo being matched with various tops and coats, almost all of which were military-inspired

peacoats and jackets. Throw a little ash and dirt on the clothing, and it's not hard to imagine McCarthy's "the man" trudging down a desolate highway or Clive Owen's lead character in the film *Children of Men*.

Skip over to Duckie Brown's runway show and you can watch models walk in what I can only call puff-ball ninja clothing. The clothing is all black, head to toe, exposing only the model's eyes. Occasionally, there's an injection of bright orange in the color scheme, perhaps imitating a chemical spill? But the clothing is unnatural, sleek and puffy, lustrous and non-reflective, like clothing you pick off the ground and put on for the sake of protection. An interesting notion was that some of the pieces looked like they were made from Kevlar, an unusual material in designer clothing, one would think.

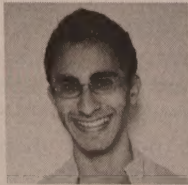
On the very same day of Duckie Brown's show, Rag & Bone seemed to have a similar idea in mind. Playing off Japanese influences, the two designers brought "ninja pants" to the runway, which are essentially unstruc-

tured baggy pants cinched at the knees and ankles by extraneous pieces of fabric. The shirts and jackets were collarless, again an unnatural look for most people, making it seem futuristic. Some of the "formalwear" was metallic in its appearance, evoking Kevlar again. Utilitarian, militant, protective and resilient seemed to ring through all these shows, which begs the question: What are all these men hiding from?

Undoubtedly, designers foresee tough times that don't seem to be going away any time soon. Their clothes reflect what I think to be leftovers of war. The clothes that were once worn on the battlefields of a long lost war are being worn again for lack of money and selection (hence all the Kevlar).

These men have nothing to wear but these remnants of past tough times and in a way foreshadow the rough future that lies ahead, post-apocalyptic or not. And if Cormac McCarthy is right about what's likely to happen to humanity and civilization (self-produced or not), then there's at least the small hope of rebirth and rescue that appears at the end of his novel.

Yet for now, we'll stick to our guns, stay the miserable course and wear Kevlar to class in the hope that everything will work out fine.



Siavash Raigani Hop Couture

THE JOHNS HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER
PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

The end of crew

The decision recently made by the University to discontinue the men's and women's crew teams was met with a combination of confusion and dismay. The necessity of eliminating the sport is unfortunate but understandable; however, the manner in which the decision was made and executed is questionable at best.

Financing a crew season costs the University \$200,000, with the money going towards transporting both boats and students to practice in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, basic safety costs and the occasional purchase of new boats. This makes crew the third most expensive sport on campus, second only to the school's Division I men's and women's lacrosse teams. These cuts are reasonable in light of the University's current economic situation. And although they are regrettable, it is necessary to put the needs of the student body as a whole before the needs of the minority who row.

With a 20 percent decrease in our endowment, hiring freezes and a five percent pay cut for executive staff members, the University has clearly begun to feel the effects of the national economic climate. The decision to alleviate some of the financial burden is appropriate. What does not make sense is that the choice to eliminate crew has been an on-going debate for five years, seemingly without any discussion with the coaching staff and the student-athletes.

The fact that three members of the class of 2013 are being given the option to break their early decision commitment based on this news demonstrates the importance students place on such activities to a well-rounded college experience. Knowing there was the potential for the team to be cut might have influenced their decision to come to Hopkins. By helping accommodate rowers who may consider transferring, the University seems to acknowledge this reality.

Why, then, did this decision appear to be made without any warning, especially when the University has been considering such action for a number of years? Decision-makers should discuss and inform both the athletic department staff and students about the status of their team in such circumstances.

The crew team was informed via e-mail Wednesday night from the associate director of athletics about a Thursday morning mandatory meeting. It was during this meeting that they received word that after the end of the current season, the team would no longer exist. Head Coach Steven Perry was informed about 30 minutes before he had to tell his team; he also had no input regarding the department's decision. The current economic situation is being used to justify the quick implementation of a plan that has been five years in the making.

Within four days of receiving the news, two crew alumni had begun fundraising efforts to save the sport, however the Director of Athletics, Tom Calder, made it clear that crew would not exist in any form, varsity, club or otherwise. The lower-cost option of a club team is not feasible because the sport would still be costly and would lack the water supervision that varsity status requires.

This page does not question the claim that this decision was necessary in the middle of this nation-wide economic crisis. But the lack of transparency displayed by the University's decision process and the abrupt nature of its conclusion demonstrates an oversight of considering the impact such eliminations might have on a students' college experience. It is with this resolve that we call upon the University to use a more transparent process if there are further necessary cuts in student activities.

Policing students

The relationship between Hopkins students, community members and the Baltimore police have never been completely magnanimous. This relationship was stained by last year's passage of the city's Neighbor Nuisance Law, which sets an arbitrary level of acceptable noise. This strain has been attenuated by a new order given to the Northern District police (the district that includes Charles Village) to more strictly enforce this law.

Late last week Hopkins Student/Community Liaison Carrie Bennett sent an e-mail to a number of Hopkins campus leaders and students warning them about the newly issued Baltimore Police Department order, which requires officers responding to incidents involving students to submit a written report. This new order, in combination with last year's passing of the Neighborhood Nuisance Law championed by Mary Pat-Clarke, presents a real threat to Hopkins students. If officers are now required to file reports about every response concerning students, many students living off-campus may soon face eviction as a result of the Nuisance law's two-strike policy.

There is no consensus as to what will be the result of this order. Bennett contends that the order will result in an increased number of arrests. Dana Peterson Moore, president of the Charles Village Association, suggests that it will deter police from responding to complaints in order to avoid writing reports. Fraternity presidents and Rob Turning do not believe that much will change under the new policy.

This page does not assume that we know what the ultimate impact of this new order will be on students and the community at large. However, it is clear that these predictions are undesirable and counterproductive for all parties involved.

The order appears to explicitly target students, which is not only blatantly unfair, but will also undermine attempts to create a cohesive community between students and residents. The order is born out of the false dichotomy of students and the community. The fact that officers are only required to file a report if the incident involves students only perpetuates the false perception of an us and them.

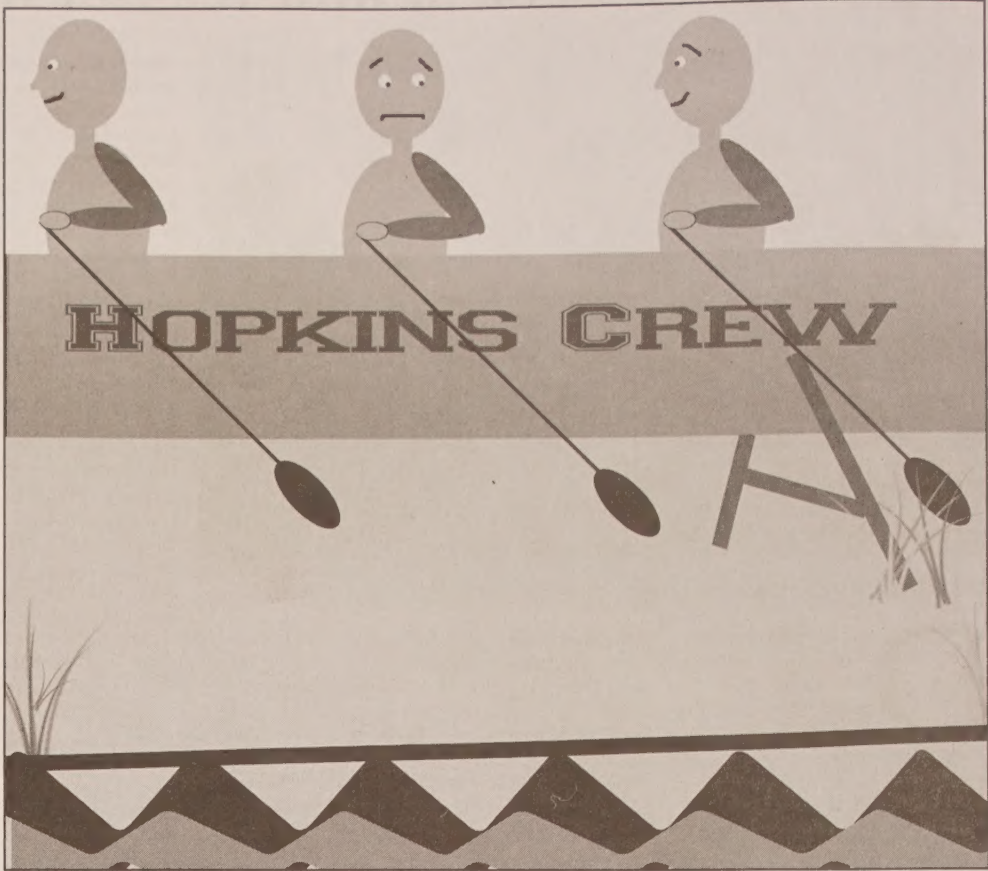
This sentiment is exemplified by the statements of Moore: "There seems to be a constant problem with students gathering, being loud and rowdy and disrespectful, to the point where the community is ready to seek prosecutions for that type of conduct."

We are not claiming that students are innocent of such accusations rowdiness and disrespect, nor are we suggesting that students be immune from the penalties associated with breaking the law.

We do believe, however, that such a blanket order undermines the ability for law enforcement to exercise their authority with the appropriate amount of discretion.

The way to create a more cohesive community is to erase the perception furthered by students and residents, that Hopkins and the Charles Village community are two distinct entities. Students must learn to be more considerate and respectful of their neighbors and residents in turn need to think of Hopkins students as a part of the community.

Anne Faber



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

Your story on the recent arrest of a student on gun charges ("Undergrad arrested for possession of arms in dorm," Feb. 12) incorrectly paraphrased me as saying the university "plans to set an example by treating Wang harshly and justly with expulsion."

In keeping with federal privacy law, the university does not comment on student disciplinary action. In fact, your reporter never raised with me the question of Mr. Wang's status as a student, current or future. We did not discuss the issue.

And while Johns Hopkins takes extremely seriously its policy banning firearms from univer-

sity property, I did not say anything that could be interpreted as indicating the university was singling out any particular violator for unusually harsh treatment.

Sincerely,

Dennis O'Shea
Executive Director,
Communications and Public Affairs

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The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or emailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the News-Letter and can not be returned. The News-Letter reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The News-Letter reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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NEWS-LETTER

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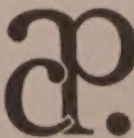
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OPINIONS

The Public Discourse: Partisanship

Saumya Gurbani

The Voice for Comprehensive Debate

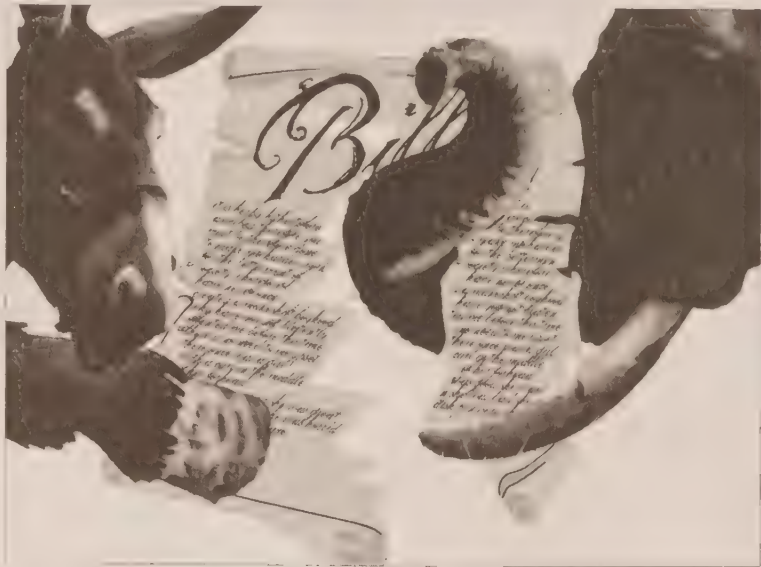
The economy is in shambles. Schools desperately need reform and 46 million Americans are still without any health insurance. Amidst what seems like imminent disaster, it seems as though the people of the United States are tired of the petty politics that divide this country. We believe that it is now time to call upon our respective Congresspersons to finally reach across party lines and get policies passed. A noble endeavor to be sure. However, blindly engaging in bipartisanship just to get legislation passed is a horrible idea. This isn't to say that I am against bipartisanship in general, just that partisanship is often quite necessary.

The fact of the matter is that if a Congressman has a set of principles on administrative philosophy, he ought not to forego them simply to get legislation pushed through. Congresspersons are elected not only because of their explicit policy views but also because of their party affiliation. Registered Democrats often vote according to their beliefs in prin-

ciples such as active social participation and government support for those in the lowest of socioeconomic conditions. Registered Republican voters often vote because they believe in the principles of limited government and streamlining efficiency. There is no reason to simply abandon these core principles just for the sake of pushing an agenda through quickly.

Party philosophical differences should be perfectly justifiable reasons to reject a proposal even if that proposal addresses a topic that is in dire need of legislation. This is the case, because even though legislation is needed, it doesn't mean that wrong legislation becomes acceptable. No Democrat should feel obliged to vote for a policy he or she is philosophically opposed to just because the issue demands attention. There was no reason for Democrats to have had to engage in bipartisanship when voting for the No Child Left Behind Act just because education reform needed to be implemented. The Democrats broke from their base philosophy just for the sake of passing a policy on a pressing issue.

We are truly at one of the most pivotal moments in our history. It is prudent for us to understand that even though we desperately need certain legislation, to



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

pass bad policy will be infinitely worse. Our Congresspersons must understand that bipartisanship shouldn't challenge our principles. Bipartisanship shouldn't arise out of desperation. Bipartisanship should only happen when two parties come together in actual agreement with one another on how to better America. After all, the whole reason we have multiple viewpoints in our government is to make sure that bad policies don't get passed and that good ones are actually that — good.

Partisanship looks great in theory. People with similar ideas form groups in order to promote given ideas; each member strives to support his party and in return gains the opportunity to have his policies put into effect. One man is weak, but an entire party can be much stronger than its combined parts, and you have a greater chance of getting done what you want done.

But partisanship in today's government is riddled with prob-

lems that show that theory is just theory.

The first problem with our system of political parties is that your choices are automatically limited, and your views have to align with one of two parties. If you are involved in politics, you have to be either a Democrat or Republican in order to have any voice. Just take a glance at our Congress. Only two Senators are registered as Independent, and even they caucus with the Democratic Party; the House has no Independents despite its 435 members.

If you don't belong to one of the two parties, your opinion will not matter.

Furthermore, if you belong to a party, you must put the platform of that party above your own ideas. A Congressman who votes against his party will find it hard to gain support in the future.

Secondly, strong partisan ties are causing more harm than good in Congress today. Theoretically, even with just two political parties, there is still the chance for

the best of both parties' platforms to be debated about on the floor and eventually consolidated with strong legislation. Unfortunately, there has been virtually no cooperation amongst the two groups in the Congress during the past few terms. Whenever one party wants one thing and the other disagrees — which is pretty much always — Congress stalls.

Take into consideration the \$700 billion emergency bailout of late 2008. The plan was backed by the U.S. Treasury, then-President Bush and both leading Presidential candidates, Senator McCain and then-Senator Obama, all wanting a bipartisan resolution to save the economy. Yet on the floor of the House of Representatives, a partisan war stopped the bill from passing; the majority of Democrats voted in favor, the majority of Republicans against, causing the bill to fail and the Dow Jones Industrial to face one of the largest point drops in history the following day. With a lack of cooperation in times of severe crisis, how can we expect a partisan Congress to act appropriately?

Omar Qureshi is a freshman economics and international studies major from Monett, Mo.

Saumya Gurbani is a freshman chemical engineering major from Baroda, India.

Neil Albstein and Frantz Farreau

The Leadership Imperative

Our nation faces numerous problems: Our economy is struggling, our National Pastime is in turmoil, one of our states is budget-less and the big three are facing bankruptcy. Nothing is safe. On the surface these problems appear to be of a varied nature and source; in fact, they all stem from the same basic cause — poor leadership. Far too many of the people having influence over American life are incompetent. And they are not just politicians.

Major League Baseball and its problems serve as a microcosm for America's flawed leadership. Commissioner Alan H. (Bud) Selig Jr. oversaw the only cancelled World Series in over 100 years of competition and cheapened the World Series through the introduction of interleague play during the regular season. He faced racketeering charges for his attempted league contraction and worst of all, Selig turned a blind eye to the steroids era, a period in which players used steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) to gain unfair advantage over their opponents. After years of rampant, blatant steroid use by many of the game's premier players, Selig was finally forced to confront the issue in 2006. His empty efforts at reigning in the use of PEDs are laughable in light of his decision to allow Barry Bonds to break baseball's coveted home-run record in the midst of a criminal investigation into Bonds's ac-

tions. Worse, Bonds had already tested positive for steroid use years before, and numerous witnesses were willing to testify that he was guilty.

Selig's actions are incomprehensible in light of the precedent set by baseball's first Commissioner, Kenesaw M. Landis, who banned eight players for life after their alleged fixing of the 1919 World Series, even though they had been acquitted in a court of law of all relating charges. Fan reactions have shown little tolerance for the players who have used steroids, suggesting that the once highly regarded public image of baseball has taken a beating.

But why should the national pastime be different from anything else in America?

California, home to the world's eighth-largest economy, is now going bankrupt. Something must be wrong when the governor begs government employees to stay home without pay two days a month (which just goes to show that they really don't do any indispensable work anyway).

This situation shows just how much damage incompetent leadership can do. Schwarzenegger announced that he would revoke 20,000 jobs if a budget was not reached by the end of this week, on top of the mandatory two days of leave without pay. Laying off 20,000 workers who are doing their jobs is not going to accomplish anything other than breeding re-

sentment. The guy who should lose his job is not the firefighter trying to do his job and raise a family! The guy who should lose his job is the guy who won't sign the budget: the governor.

While it is easy to blame the legislators for being lazy and not caring about the budget (they're still getting paid, budget or not), we cannot forget to blame the Governor. Sure, it took the legislature five months, but they approved a budget that the governor refuses to sign because, among other reasons, not enough money was being used for things like building roads. Now we're building roads, and the people building the roads are not seeing paychecks. Good thing you won't be back this time, Arnie.

Compare this situation in California with that of Ford Motor Companies. Naturally, trying to come up with a budget for the eighth-largest economy in the world is not quite the same as trying to keep a multi-billion dollar company afloat, but we can certainly see the effects of competent leadership in Ford's enviable condition compared with the disastrous conditions at GM and Chrysler. It is commonly accepted that Ford is now in a better position because it has liquid assets and because it borrowed money before (in 2007) lines of credit dried up, but are we really naive enough to think that this is the only reason Ford may be able to keep an "Edge" on the

competition? It would be foolish to think so.

Ford's comparative economic superiority to the other American car companies is largely due to excellent foresight on the part of its leadership. In addition to receiving loans before the tightening of credit lines, Ford also made some gutsy decisions, which proved extremely salutary. Before the economy started going down, Ford closed down plants which were only marginally productive and got rid of brands that were not selling (Aston Martin and Jaguar, for example). In addition, with the help of its contacts with Volvo, Ford has now managed to top foreign car safety records. Ford also began developing smaller, more fuel-efficient cars so it could compete with the foreign car makers like Toyota and Honda.

Is it any wonder that Ford is now snubbing its nose at the other two car companies and claims it will survive without the bailout money? It is not just its current liquidity that causes this confidence but also the knowledge that its leadership will have the foresight to weather any storm. All this just goes to show that as much as we want to deny it, leadership is the ultimate factor that decides the outcome of all situations.

Neil Albstein is a junior political science major from New York, N.Y. Frantz Farreau is a senior neuroscience major from La Jolla, Calif.

Student Activism (or Lack Thereof) at Hopkins

By MICHAEL GLENWICK

As one of the co-chairs of the Foreign Affairs Symposium, I am fortunate enough to have the opportunity to spend some extra time with our internationally renowned speakers before and after our events. A few weeks ago, I walked our first keynote speaker, Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini, the Jordanian Ambassador to the United States and a Hopkins alum, to his car, and we discussed a number of different topics. From the United Nations to the war in Iraq (and everywhere in between), the Ambassador had something to say, and my fellow co-chairs and I were happy to listen.

But then, all of a sudden, we passed Garland Hall, and the topic changed. "Is that still the admissions building?" Prince Zeid asked us. "No," we responded. "The admissions building is a new building on that new quad behind Garland." Because Garland wasn't that old when the ambassador was a student here, he was surprised by the site change.

However, that was not the only change Hopkins has undergone in the past 20 years. As we continued walking, the ambassador continued to talk about Garland and how, in October 1986 — his senior year here — a number of Hopkins students staged a sit-in for nine days inside the then-admissions building, protesting the University's investments in companies doing business in apartheid-ruled South Africa. He asked us if that sort of thing — that energy, that excitement regarding political events and Hopkins's role in them — still existed. The answer, we said, was no.

Can you even imagine Hopkins students taking over a University building for nine straight days to protest a school policy, a political ideology . . . anything? Would we even dare risk expulsion or arrest as did both students and professors back in 1986? Is there anything that would get us out of the library on a school night and onto the lower quad to build a mock shantytown, as did Hopkins students on not one but two occasions in that same year?

Maybe the University's investment in an apartheid government was the sort of extreme situation that could galvanize a bunch of college students, and

we just don't have those sorts of issues hovering over our campus today. But that should not be an excuse for the overall apathy that persists on this campus.

This is not to say that there aren't politically active and aware student groups and individuals on campus. We have the College Democrats and Republicans, and there are other student-run organizations that focus on socially aware community service (like Tutorial Project or Project Health) or specific causes (like STAND, whose goal is to end the genocide in Darfur).

But how far will any of these groups go to protest a policy or event? A few years ago, when I was a freshman in STAND, we discussed the possibility of replicating the 1986 shantytown to raise awareness of our University's possible investments in a government sponsoring genocide. In the end, however, we decided not to do it. I'm not exactly sure why, but, as much as we cared about the issue, maybe we just weren't ready to put our criminal records (or, God forbid, our transcripts) on the line.

Why was 1986 different? Maybe it was the kids, the specific issue or maybe just the general historical context that triggered such a powerful movement. The kids in '86 faced the same career challenges as we do today — they understood the risks they took when they camped illegally on the lower quad or invaded Garland for nine straight days — but something was different back then.

Prince Zeid sounded understandably disappointed when we told him that the sort of activism he knew during his four years at Hopkins no longer existed here. Neither my fellow co-chairs nor I could give the ambassador — a Hopkins alum who has dedicated his life to public service and humanitarian work — a good excuse for our relative apathy.

Hopkins students are smart, and for the most part, we care about the big issues of the day. But when it all comes down to it, maybe we just don't care enough to put those issues ahead of our own, mostly selfish needs.

Michael Glenwick is a junior international studies and spanish major from New York, N.Y.

Prateik Dalmia

Study Abroad: A Life-Changing Experience

We have inhabited this beautiful thing we call Earth for 200,000 years. Over the course of these 200,000 years humans have formed countless societies — each with a sharply distinct way of life. To relate the different ways humans have lived their lives would be an endless pursuit; there have been artists, warriors, humanitarians, hippies, WASPs, bankers, kings, surfers, entrepreneurs, Buddhists, jocks, nerds, etc. The depressing thing is that you only have one chance to live your life, and your mortality places a limit on the amount of experiences you can have. Which lifestyle is right for you? How do you want to live your life? I'm guessing that upon entering Hopkins you found this to be a

painfully burdensome question, and it probably still is.

What if you could do something life-changing that would help clear the fog surrounding this issue? In the sage words of Eminem, "Would you capture it, or just let it slip?!" Well, here at Hopkins there is such an opportunity. It is called the study abroad program.

Most people who studied abroad agree that it was "the best decision they ever made" and in many ways "life-changing" but have trouble putting their finger on why. After having taken a year off to do a little globe-trotting, I will provide my best attempt to explain the almost magically life-changing effects of studying abroad.

Through the assimilation process you realize that you can survive and be happy in a completely alien setting. This gives

you a sense of confidence that can never be lost — something exceedingly important for all of life's endeavors.

By removing yourself from American culture and experiencing something very different, you gain a standard of comparison to America. You become able to understand what it means to be an American. Without doing this, it is impossible to truly appreciate this country.

You gain a deeper understanding of human nature. No matter how different tribesmen in Africa might seem from bankers in New York City, all humans are, on a fundamental level, the same and they share common desires.

By removing yourself from everything you know, you are able to sort through what is meaningful and what is not. You can rid yourself of the corrupting, cotton-candy desires that seem at-

tractive from the outside but in the end are fleeting bursts of joy.

You open your mind to alternative ways of living.

There are many realizations that may be gained along this path of self and world-discovery, and these are just a few. In the end, they end up changing your perspective on the world. This might sound vague and cliché, but it is cliché for a reason — there is some sincere truth to it.

So *carpe diem*, "seize the day," "live life to the fullest," "the world is your oyster," "go big or go home" and study abroad. Study at a place I once heard a traveler call "the University of Life." It doesn't matter what courses you take, all that matters is that you go somewhere, someplace strange and foreign — the more strange and foreign, the better. It will change your life — it changed mine.

Prateik Dalmia is a freshman international studies major from Novi, Mich.



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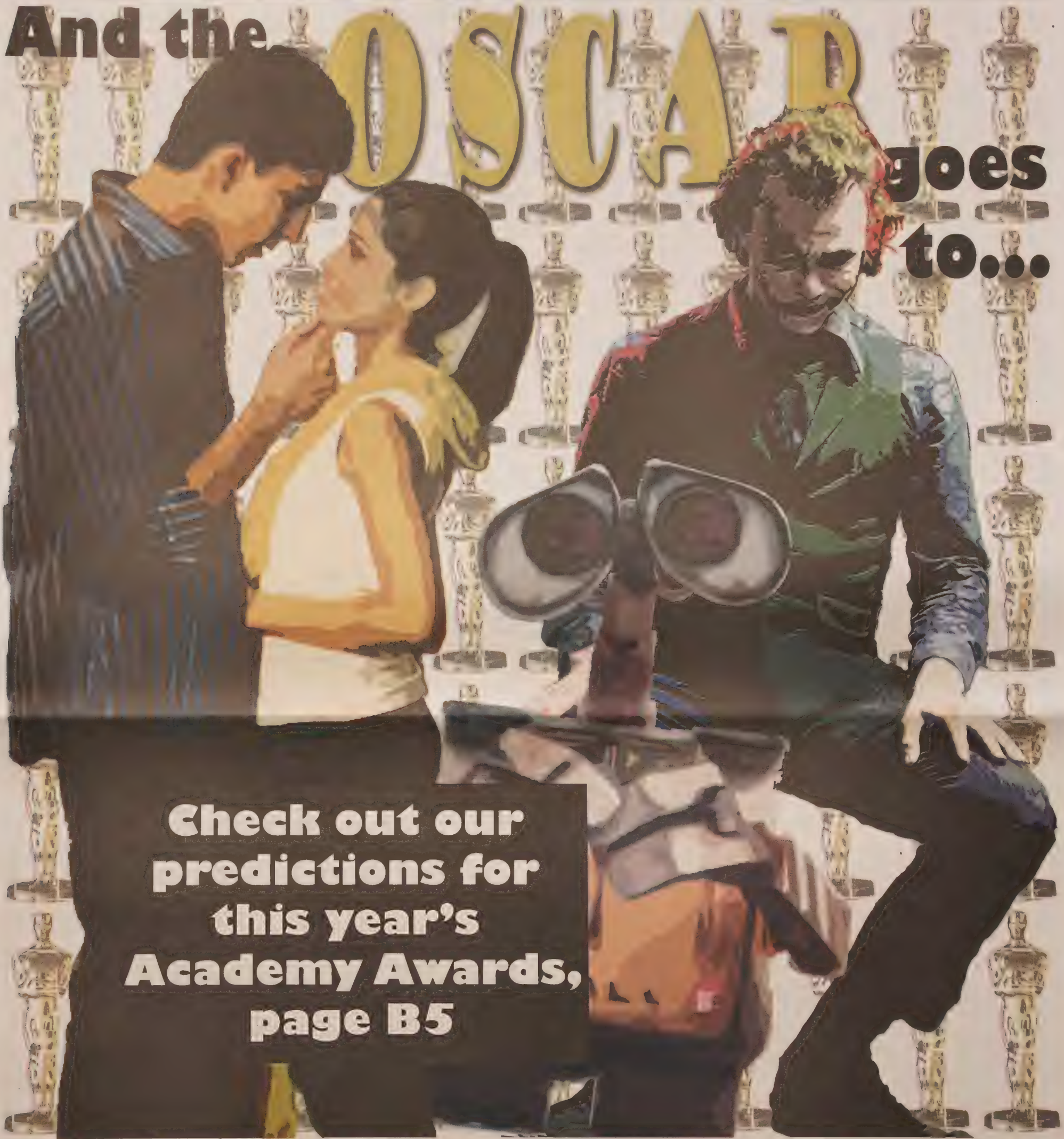
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FEBRUARY 19, 2009

And the OSCAR goes to...



Check out our predictions for this year's Academy Awards, page B5



EVER WONDER WHAT POM BOTTLES AND BEETLES HAVE IN COMMON?

PAGE B8

CALENDAR FEB. 19- FEB. 24

Art, Beats and Lyrics comes to Baltimore

Art and music were once the voice of the people. It was an underground movement driven by the need for expression. Somewhere along the way, art became available only to the elite, and music profited only the few. At that point the artists lost control of their creation.

Art, Beats and Lyrics is a multi-media art exhibition that explores the work of a diverse group of visual artists who have emerged from the hip hop culture throughout the U.S. More commonly known as *AB+L*, the exhibition explores seven themes in hip hop and highlights urban art forms expressed through photography, graffiti, paintings fused with DJing, break dancing and live music.

The core of the project involves artwork, music and design by more than 20 individuals who range from well-known artists to up and coming local talent. *AB+L* started with an audience of over 400 people and grew to over 4,000 people for a one-evening event at the High Museum. Hoping to capture the urban audience by maintaining its roots in the streets and promoting the underground experience, *AB+L*



The first *Art, Beats and Lyrics* urban art show in 2004 was held in a venue that could only hold 250 people, but 400 attended.

understands the subcultures within the underground network. This platform also gives local urban artists a channel in which to expose their art to a wider audience. The exhibitions include an art gallery with an "urban renaissance" theme, a turntable skills showcase performed by national DJ battle champions, a large-scale art installation, a rare sneaker installation, a break-dance display and a video projection integration.

The co-founders of *AB+L*, Jabari Graham and Dubelyoo, created a multi-media wide-

sweeping sensation after their second *AB+L* event held at the High Museum in 2005. On that night, artists, founders and viewers alike experienced the strange thrill of bringing their slice of the street art subculture to the terra firma of the High Museum. The event was a huge success, merging a confounding amount of 3,000 people in the museum. Many people viewed the *AB+L* in Atlanta as one of the events that helped fan the flames in the city's urban underground art and music movements. Needless to say,

membership sales for the High Museum in Atlanta went up after the one-night art explosion.

Now Baltimore's very own Hippodrome Theatre at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center located on 12 N. Eutaw St. will hold the hip hop and urban art exhibition on Friday from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. Admission is free. Visit <http://www.jackdaniels.com/abl/events.aspx> to reserve free passes. Visit <http://www.artbeatsandlyrics.com/index.cfm> for more general information.

— Rachael Tillman

Campus events

Friday, Feb. 20

2 p.m. Homewood Museum

As part of the exhibition *Next to Godliness: Cleanliness in Early Maryland*, Homewood director and curator Catherine Rogers Arthur will discuss traditional cleaning methods and products, including some that would be considered "green" by today's standards. A tea and cookie reception will follow. Admission is \$7.50 and free for members and students. Reservations are required. Call (410) 516-5589 for more information.

8 p.m. Well

Theatre Hopkins presents *Well* by Lisa Kron. Friday performances are free, with reservations recommended. The performance reoccurs on Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for Saturday evenings and Sunday matinees. Student rush tickets for \$5 are available at curtain time, if space allows. The performance will be held in the Swirnow Theater in the Mattin Arts Center. E-mail thehop@jhu.edu for more information.

8 p.m. Buttered Niblets

Join the Buttered Niblets Comedy Improv in Arellano Theater in Levering and expect a lot of laughs. Admission is \$1. Visit their new Web site <http://www.butteredniblets.onyx.com> for more information.

Saturday, Feb. 21

2 p.m. Ancestral Voices

Theatre Hopkins presents a staged reading of *Ancestral Voices* by A. R. Gurney in the Swirnow Theater in the Mattin Arts Center. Admission is \$10. Call (410)

516- 7159 or e-mail thehop@jhu.edu for more information.

7 p.m. The International Competition of Collegiate A capella The Octopodes host the International Competition of Collegiate A capella Mid-Atlantic Regional Quarterfinals featuring the All-nighters in Shriver Hall Auditorium. Come see young vocalists showcase their talent to an international audience and develop relationships with each other, cultivating the art of a cappella singing and a lifelong love of music. Admission is \$12 and \$8 for students. E-mail octopodes@jhu.edu for more information.

Local events

Thursday, Feb. 19

4 p.m. Crabby Thursdays

Feeling crabby? Looking for a place to take away the bite of those oh-so-close-to-Friday woes? Little Havana has the cure. Choose from half-priced crab cakes, crab quesadillas and crab dip every Thursday. Little Havana Restaurant y Cantina is located on 1325 Key Highway. Visit <http://www.littlehavanas.com> for more information.

7:30 p.m. I Am My Own Wife

Everyman Theatre on 1727 N. Charles St. in Station North presents Doug Wright's eclectic, one-man play about an East German transvestite, Charlotte Von Mahlsdorf, who survived the Nazi regime. Bruce Nelson plays over 40 characters, each seeking to examine their role in post-war Germany. Tickets range from \$18 to \$38. Shows will continue on Wednesday through Sunday until Feb. 22. Visit [\[erymantheatre.org\]\(http://erymantheatre.org\) for more information.](http://www.ev-</p>
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8 p.m. Chromatic Mysteries featuring Marshall Allen

Chromatic Mysteries is a new ensemble comprised of members of such sonic explorers as Sun Ra Arkestra, Bardo Pond and Khoudek. Horns collide with guitars that melt with percussion to create alien emissions that communicate with man's primordial ooze. The Windup Space located on 12 W. North Ave. is featuring this eclectic jazz band. Tickets are \$10. Visit <http://thewindupspace.com> for more information.

9 p.m. Vivre Sa Vie

Vivre Sa Vie is part of The Charles's revival series. The French film stars Anna Karina, the director's then-wife, as Nana, a young Parisian woman who abandons her marriage and child in order to pursue a career as an actress. Faced with financial troubles, she drifts into prostitution. Nana believes she makes this choice of her own free will, but the film emphasizes the social structure that forces the poor into such situations and builds to a tragic conclusion. Tickets are \$8. The Charles Theatre is located on 1711 N. Charles St. Visit <http://www.thecharles.com> for more information.

Friday, Sept. 20

6 p.m. Sub City Take Action! Tour with Cute Is What We Aim For and Meg & Dia

Perhaps building on the momentum afforded youth activism in the wake of the presidential election, the Sub City Take Action! Tour — now in its eighth year — looks bigger and better than ever, with emo-pop headliners Cute Is What We Aim For supported by

precocious power-pop sister act Meg & Dia, elect-emo weirdos Breathe Carolina and more. Proceeds benefit *DoSomething.org*, a Web site meant to encourage the all-ages crowd to ... well, do something. (Something — anything — big and important, that is.) It's a good show for a great cause held at Rams Head Live!, located downtown on 20 Market Place. Tickets are \$16 in advance and \$18 at the door. Visit <http://tickets.ramsheadlive.com> for more information.

8 p.m. "Fall of the House of Usher"

This one-act experimental performance piece, inspired by Edgar Allan Poe's masterpiece, features sets designed by MICA illustration students. The production is directed by David Drake and is performed by MICA students. Admission is free. The show will be held in the Black Box Theatre at the Gateway on 1300 Mt. Royal Ave. Visit <http://www.nevermore2009.com> for more information.

8:30 p.m. Albert Rivera Quartet

The Albert Rivera Quartet has been eight years in the making. Based in New York City, Albert Rivera is joined by some of the newest faces in jazz. He is committed in bringing new sounds to the people's ears, keeping in mind where the music came from. New Haven Lounge in the Northwood Shopping Center on 1552 Havenwood Rd. is presenting the quartet. Tickets are \$8. Visit <http://www.albertriverajazz.com/index.php> for more information.

9 p.m. Doo-Long

The Sidebar Tavern located downtown on 218 East Lexington St. invites us to celebrate this quirky

MOVIE OPENINGS

Pierrot Le Fou

Opening at the Charles Theatre
Saturday, Feb. 21

(410) 727-FILM or <http://www.thecharles.com> for showtimes



COURTESY OF JANUSFILMS.COM

After abandoning his wife at a Parisian party, the bored Ferdinand flees his bourgeois existence with his baby-sitter and ex-lover, Marianne. Taking it on the lam to the south of France, the couple becomes an existential Bonnie and Clyde.

tribute to '60s girl groups with Baltimore's own The Motorettes and DJ Matt Walter spinning girl groups all night. There will be a special drink menu, a slide show, zany decorations and more. Admission is \$6. Visit <http://www.sidebartavern.com> for more information.

formation.

2 p.m. Annette Gordon-Reed

Annette Gordon-Reed, acclaimed author of *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy*, will discuss her new book *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*. While DNA evidence convinced most experts that Thomas Jefferson had fathered children with his slave Sally Hemmings, the story behind Sally Hemmings has largely been in the dark. Gordon-Reed combed through legal records, diaries, farm books, letters, wills, old newspapers, archives, relatives' memories and more to rescue not only Sally but the entire Hemings clan from obscurity. Their story is contained in her book *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*. The book reading will be held in the Enoch Pratt Free Library on 400 Cathedral St. Admission is free. Visit <http://www.prattlibrary.org/locations> for more information.

Saturday, Feb. 21

10:30 a.m. Best Picture Showcase

Catch up on all five of this year's best picture nominees for \$30. Attendees get a free large popcorn, unlimited refills all day and a collectible pass that allows them to come and go at will. AMC Owings Mills 17 will be showing the films. The theater is located on 10100 Mill Run Circle. Films include *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Milk*, *Frost/Nixon*, *The Reader* and *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. Visit <http://www.amctheatres.com/promos/showcase> for more information.

6 p.m. Charm City Roller Girls Bout

The Charm city all-star roller-skaters take on the Dutchland Derby Rollers (from Lancaster, Pa.) and The Rhode Island Riveters (from Providence, R.I.). Watch their famous battle in the Du Burns Arena in Canton on 1301 S. Ellwood Ave. Tickets are \$10. Visit <http://www.charmcityrollergirls.com> for more information.

7 p.m. Caleb Stine and Saleem

Caleb Stine and Saleem Heggins have united folk Americana and hip hop to surprising effect. See the duo perform live, and pick up the album at Sound Garden located in Fells Point at 1616 Thames St. Admission is free. Visit <http://www.cdjoint.com> for more information.

7:30 p.m. ¡Viva Brasil! Samba Dance Party!

Samba Trovao, vocalist Rose Moraes and Rita Nobre dancing in full costume transform the Patterson into a Carnival street party. Look for Samba lessons, Cool DJ Lobo and Caipirinhas at the cash bar. The Patterson is located on 3134 Eastern Ave. Tickets are \$13 for students and \$16 for general admission. Visit <http://www.creativealliance.org> for more information.

Sunday, Feb. 22

9:45 a.m. Cinema Sundays

The film series sponsored by the Charles Theatre presents *Beaufort*. The meeting will include bagels, coffee and lively discussion after the film. Admission is \$15 per film. The Charles Theatre is located in Station North on 1711 N. Charles St. Visit <http://www.cinemasundays.com> for more in-

5 p.m. Sunday \$12 entrées

You don't know Jack about good dinner specials. Learn something Sundays at Jack's Bistro in Canton, when quality dinner entrées are served for only \$12 at the bar. Jack's Bistro is on 3123 Elliot St. Visit <http://www.jacksbistro.net> for more information.

Monday, Feb. 23

4 p.m. Jazz Ain't Nothin' But the Truth

An audiovisual history of the blues and workshop presented by Robert Cataliotti and Ann Cobb of Coppin State University. Admission is free and the presentation is held in Enoch Pratt Free Library in Waverly on 400 E. 33rd St. Visit <http://www.prattlibrary.org/locations/waverly> for more information.

Tuesday, Feb. 24

7 a.m. IHOP National Pancake Celebration

IHOP is celebrating a national pancake holiday by offering free pancakes. Find enough IHOPs, and you can have yourself three square meals for free. One IHOP is located in Towson on 6820 Loch Raven Blvd. Visit <http://www.ihoppancake-day.com> for more information.

4 p.m. Blue Plate Special

On any given Tuesday, Ale Mary's blue plate special could be pork chops, jambalaya or pepper steak with rice. The entree is determined on the whim of co-owner Mary Rivers. Rest assured whatever she whips up will be delicious and will only cost \$5.95. Ale Mary's is located in Fells Point on 1939 Fleet St. Visit <http://www.alemarys.com> for more information.

Exposure

By Jessie Young



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theatre Hop gets up close and personal in *Well* Friday the 13th remake promises a good scare

By HANNAH STERNBERG
Staff Writer

The show started to slide into the surreal when a fifth-grader jumped out from the wings to taunt the surprised playwright. In a play that was already deliberately self-reflexive, there was a reminder that even the writer's careful editing couldn't suppress the messy side of her own life. As Lisa Kron, the main character of her own play, explains to the audience at the beginning, this will be a theatrical "exploration" of themes of health and wellness, integration and cultural difference.

In *Well*, Lisa Kron departs from her usual one-woman format to stage a multi-cast set of vignettes portraying incidents from her childhood in a racially integrated neighborhood and her young-adulthood struggling with an undefinable illness that she recovered from but that her mother could not. Kron's character on stage thinks she has constructed a neat collection of moments and characters to portray, but her mother, ensconced in an armchair on the right half of the stage, frequently interferes with the process by correcting her generalizations, asking why she has chosen to omit revealing details or telling a more edifying story with no cast to enact it but her own compelling voice.

Well is a good choice for Theatre Hopkins, which operates in the small, black-box space of Swirnow, allowing the audience to fully enjoy the destruction of the fourth wall in a seemingly casual, off-the-cuff performance. Lisa Hodsoll, playing Lisa Kron, introduces the play with a monologue that blends seamlessly into the opening scene as the lights fade. This intimacy with the audience encourages interaction, so that when Lisa turns to the viewers and asks for backup on a point, several members actually called back.

Hodsoll opens the performance with a self-conscious demeanor that illustrates her character's fixation with explaining her own play as it progresses, as if afraid that even with her clear-cut tableaux, the audience will still miss the point she's trying to drive home about the triumph of integration and the ability to become well. Hodsoll's self-deprecating, nervous manner sets the tone for the chaos that is to come when Kron's own cast leaves her to talk to her mother, and when



MARY DZWONCHYK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Archie Williams co-stars with Lisa Hodsoll, who portrays playwright Lisa Kron in the Theatre Hopkins production of *Well*.

unplanned characters, such as the teasing fifth-grader, barge uninvited into the show. Another of these characters is the little black girl who keeps resurfacing from Kron's memory and intruding on her play, taunting her for being the only white girl in their school.

Kron wishes the little girl would just go away. At first, it seems she is just embarrassed by this memory of childhood humiliation. But later, it becomes clear that she is nervous that this incident will reflect badly on the theme she is trying to build about how her mother created a perfectly unified, multi-racial community during her childhood. But Lisa Kron's mother, who is also present on stage for most of the performance, cuts in to correct her daughter's portrayal as well, explaining that the process of "healing" their community was imperfect and rife with tensions, racial and otherwise.

At times, the amount of self-referencing can be head-spinning, especially with the added complication that in this performance, Lisa Kron does not portray herself, as she did when the play was originally conceived and performed in New York. Hodsoll holds the role together admirably, a feat considering the schizophrenic nature of the part.

The construct, especially the aspect of Kron's conflict with her mother over the nature of her storytelling, can be uncomfortable. Much of this is likely deliberate, but it is sometimes alienating to the audience, especially when the

volume rises. At moments, the play trips over its own self-regard, pausing too long while the cast discusses where to pick up next or while Kron strides the stage bemoaning the derailment of her careful plan. Recalling a story of childhood mortification, Kron declares that she thought to herself as a child, "Adulthood must surely be better than this." But during the play, it doesn't appear that Kron has quite reached adulthood yet, despite years of therapy and creative exploration.

At these times, it's Ann Kron who grounds the play again. Played convincingly by an unprepossessing Gail Anderson, Ann Kron gathers the audience's attention once more with a plain, quiet story of neighborhood struggle that puts Lisa Kron's utopic vision of their neighborhood association into perspective and adds a sense of humanity that Lisa's fantasized history had left out. Ann Kron also pulls down her daughter's high-soaring political fancies into a bed of no-frills common sense. When Lisa struggles to cover up the racially charged aspects of her childhood friendships, her mother reminds her that being different

will inevitably come with tension and awkwardness and that Lisa herself sought that difference and made herself an outsider. At another time, when Ann is distributing news clippings to the distracted cast, she describes an article she read about the presence of formaldehyde residue on retail goods. One cast member chimes in that she had always thought her dizziness and nausea in malls was a visceral reaction to the rampant consumerism of her culture, but Ann tells her that she's simply allergic to the material used to preserve fabrics during shipping.

It is this continual, gentle remonstrance that punctures the play's condescension and makes it a much more ambiguous statement. Even when the entire construct of the play falls away by the end, Ann Kron's words hang in the air despite Lisa's struggle to repaint her life. In this way, the closing monologue, Ann's words read by a reluctant and disappointed Lisa, has a lingering power that rounds off this rambling, surprising work of avant-garde theater.

Well runs through March 1 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

By KARA ANDERSON
For the News-Letter

Many professional critics and laymen alike will tell you that there are way too many remakes in Hollywood these days.

However, sometimes it's hard to resist checking out a few of these remakes if they don't seem like they will completely ruin the original story. The 2009 remake of *Friday the 13th* seemed to be worth checking out. Seen as a re-imagination rather than a straight remake of the original 1980 classic, *Friday the 13th* trailers promised a new and scarier Jason with a hip new cast just waiting to be massacred in the woods.

After witnessing the beheading of his mother, a young Jason Voorhees lives in the woods and murders anyone who comes to Crystal Lake. Clay Miller, played by Jared Padalecki (*Supernatural*), comes to the small town searching for his sister who disappeared on a camping trip six weeks earlier.

Despite warnings from the

police and local citizens, Clay continues searching the town and the woods, eventually coming across a group of teenagers looking forward to a fun-filled weekend at their friend's cabin. Clay gets help from a girl in this group, but their search for Clay's sister leads them directly into the clutches of Jason and an action-packed struggle to stay alive.

The *News-Letter* had the chance to speak with Padalecki a few days before the movie was released (appropriately on Friday 13th) and get his thoughts on the remaking of the iconic slasher movie. As a huge fan of the *Friday the 13th* franchise, Padalecki was obviously very excited to be a part of the "re-imagining" of the 1980s slasher series.

Padalecki was especially eager to return to the classic action and gore from the first few films in the franchise, claiming that "Jason got a little cheesy towards number 12 of his installments . . . I mean it was like 'Jason goes to the moon,' 'Jason shops at Target,'

SEE FRIDAY, PAGE B4



COURTESY OF ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM
Padalecki comes face-to-face with Jason in the remake of horror classic, *Friday the 13th*.

Cute Is What We Aim For tells the N-L about life in *Rotation*

By HSIA-TING CHANG
For the News-Letter

For the unmotivated masses hoping to laze their way through college, here's some food for thought: Cute Is What We Aim For's Jeff Czum has been making music and getting paid for it since his senior year of high school.

While most people his age hold monotonous, minimum-wage jobs and nonchalantly mainline quad-shot espressos in anticipation of pulling yet another all-nighter at the library, Czum wakes up each morning to the glamorous life of a rock star. The lead guitarist of Cute Is What We Aim For was kind enough to answer some questions about the

band, headlining the 2009 Take Action Tour.

Cute Is What We Aim For, formed in 2005 by singer Shaant Hacikyan and Czum, has slowly been gaining momentum since the debut of their album *The Same Old Blood Rush With a New Touch*.

Despite liberal doses of drama (which can be read about on Wikipedia), the band has since recorded their sophomore album *Rotation*, toured with Fall Out Boy and introduced new bass player Dave Melillo to the public. Although Czum himself was an original member along with Hacikyan, other members have parted ways with the Buffalo, SEE CUTE, PAGE B4



COURTESY OF CUTEISWHATWEAIMFOR.COM

Cute Is What We Aim For has slowly gained more renown since their creation in 2005.

The Walters gets romantic with new *Rose* room

By CHLOE MARK
Staff Writer

Love is in the air at the Walters, but it's not the candy-hearts-and-love-songs kind of love we usually think of this time of year.

The Romance of the Rose, a collaborative exhibition between the Walters, Hopkins and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, is currently ongoing at the Walters Art Museum.

The exhibition centers on the 13th-century medieval French poem, "Le Roman de la Rose," which sits with Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* as one of the most influential texts of the medieval era. The exhibition features nine different manuscripts from across North America and a selection of ivories taken from the Walters collection.

The poem, written in two stages, by Guillaume de Lorris in 1230 and later completed by Jean de Meun in 1275, is an allegorical dream-sequence meant to provide instruction in the art of courtly love. It describes a courtier who falls in love with a rose, and who, in order to win her love must perform various acts of chivalry.

The story is not, however, a simple narrative. It contains many tangents that discuss philosophies of love and courtly practice. To the modern viewer, it is the "tangents" within the text that provide the most intriguing insight into medieval thought.

The exhibition itself, though confined to a single room, is designed so as to inspire interest in medieval literature in visitors of all ages. It presents, rather charmingly, what is unexpected in these texts and does its best to make them come alive through helpful annotations.

Love, a force so unequivocally hailed in our modern society, is presented as the subject of unending debate in the medieval world. While "Le Roman de la Rose" is a story of love and an example of courtly practice, many



COURTESY OF THE WALTERS ART MUSEUM
Romance of the Rose is based on the medieval French poem "Le Roman de la Rose," the manuscript of which is illustrated here.

seem to have taken it as a morality tale warning against the dangers of the flesh. One critique described the poem as the tale of "the obtainment of fleshy love as an empty pleasure that is death to reason."

The exhibition also demonstrates that characters such as Cupid, the cherub-like angel that bestows us with the gift of love, was in fact a much more violent and domineering figure in the medieval era. Cupid of the 13th century was a full-grown man who would shoot arrows into a person's eyes and hearts, the heads of the arrows remaining permanently and forever altering a person's vision. To be in love, it seems, was to be conquered both mentally and physically. While today we share in part with this characterization, it is not such a terrible thing to us.

Another interesting phenomenon that the exhibition demonstrates is the alarming openness towards sex in the poem. Ironi-

cally, the manuscripts use, what to our standards would seem rather graphic images of sexuality, to explain metaphors for nature.

The striking juxtaposition of sexual imagery with such regulated practices of courtship recasts our understanding of medieval life. In this way, the exhibition calls into question the modern understanding of courtly love as an elaborate, distant and labored process, and provides evidence for something altogether more human and sensual.

Perhaps, most importantly, the exhibition demonstrates that these manuscripts were not lifeless stories but continuing centers of debate. Along the margins of the manuscripts are spaces set aside for critique and commentary.

These in-text notes offer a compelling record of changing medieval thought and discussion. The import of these books, therefore, lies not in that they are

beautiful stories to read and admire, but that they provide the most complete record of philosophical debates throughout the medieval era. The exhibition continues this tradition of textual interaction by providing computers with links to a digital library that allow those interested to read more of the actual poem, make comments and read criticisms.

Although *The Romance of the Rose* does not in itself merit an excursion to the Walters, it is certainly worth a look if one is in the museum. On the whole, it inspired interest in what can often seem to be distant and austere poetry and brought to attention some unexpected facts about the medieval era.

Romance of the Rose: Visions of Love in Illuminated Medieval Manuscripts is on display now at the Walters Art Museum and will be open through April 19. Go to <http://www.thewalters.org> for visitors' information.

Cute tells the N-L about life in *Rotation*

CUTE, FROM B3
N.Y. based group

Mellilo joined the band just in time for the 2007 Vans Warped Tour and has continued to play with them ever since.

When asked about the line-up changes, Jeff replied, "I know. I know. We've had more band members than Spinal Tap." Nonetheless, they seem happy with their current band-mates. Clark Spurlock and Michael Lasaponara, who are currently touring with them.

Fame seems to agree with them, despite their rocky beginnings. Czum noted that things started to hit them "when we put our songs on Myspace and just started getting all these people requesting to be our friends and listening to our songs." He thought, "Wow, this is really taking off. Maybe we could actually do this." Currently, their MySpace page has 375,589 friends.

Mostly, though, the fame hasn't really caught up to them yet. "It's just really weird for me because I used to be the kid in the crowd all the time when I was younger. It's very surreal to me — just everything about it. I went from the crowd to the stage," Czum said.

So what has changed musically since those first months of recording? *Rotation*, released in June 2008, features a much more mature Cute is What We Aim For. For one thing, they are older.

"[When we released] our first album, we were all straight out of high school. When we recorded that, it was senior year and I had to do online classes because we went into [the] studio in Bal-



COURTESY OF FUELED BY RAMEN.COM/PRESS
Cherry Bing, Shaant Hacikyan and Jeff Czum comprise the alternative band Cute Is What We Aim For.

timore to record the album and then we started to tour. So that meant we didn't really have that much experience when it comes to music," Czum explained.

Rotation allowed the band to reflect on all the experiences they have collected since then. Topics of the songs span from a one night stand in "Practice Makes Perfect" to the jaded meditations in "Hollywood."

"From touring for two years [to] the bands we've met and listening to different genres of music, I feel like we've gained a lot more knowledge in music. So, going into studio a second time, working with John Feldman and a few new members like Dave Melillo just contributed to it. We all just matured," Czum said.

Nevertheless, as wonderful and rewarding as fame might be, Czum pursues more ordinary interests than those that landed him in the band. Extra-curricular activities for him include photography and watching movies.

When on tour, Czum said it is a necessity to have his "phone, computer and DVD case." He

listed a few of his favorites in his DVD case: "I have a lot of movies; *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, *Fight Club*. I just got *Choke* ..."

Before becoming a part of Cute is What We Aim for, Czum even held a job at Rizzo's, an Italian restaurant. However, despite good tips, Jeff moved on to bigger and better things.

Cute is What We Aim For is currently headlining the Take Action Tour. Czum describes the tour as being dedicated to "motivating kids to get out in their communities and take action, whether it's volunteering or whatever." When presented with the opportunity to join the tour, Czum said "[they] jumped right on it."

Earlier this school-year, Cute Is What We Aim For performed at Hopkins as part of the Fall Fest 2008. If you didn't get a chance to catch this burgeoning band perform then, there is another chance.

Cute Is What We Aim For will be performing on Friday at Ram's Head Live, located downtown. Tickets are \$18 at <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

Friday remake promises a good scare

Star Jared Padalecki talks to us about what separates it from other rehashings of horror films

FRIDAY, FROM B3

'Jason and the muppets.' What started off as scary and like a horror movie became kind of cheesy and campy, which is fine; I mean, that has its time and place, but I don't think that time and place is with Jason Voorhees and Camp Crystal Lake."

The new movie takes elements from the first three films in order to return to the classic slasher flicks of the 1980s and does a pretty good job of staying away from the "cheesy and campy" films from the past.

The remake itself turns out to be a good combination of old slasher movies and the gore-heavy but fright-free films that have gained in popularity in the last couple of decades. The movie contains the gruesome non-stop murders and chase scenes from the '80s but brings it up to date with a few witty one-liners and teenage sex scenes that will have the male audience cheering on more than one occasion in theaters.

The best part of the movie was, of course, the new Jason Voorhees. Played by Derek Mears (*The Hills Have Eyes II*), the new Jason is faster, smarter and a lot scarier. Padalecki described Mears as a "fit and capable . . . guy who could have survived in the woods for however many years . . . [Jason is] like a pit bull with a machete chasing you down so you just feel like there's no escape."

But isn't it scarier when he doesn't run, and you still can't escape?, you may be tempted to ask.

It would seem like that would be a logical thought process when comparing the remake with the original, but seeing a big guy running at you with a machete is

a lot scarier than some may think. Not only does this new Jason run fast, but he has also managed to come up with new, creative ways of killing his victims.

From bows and arrows to bear-traps and screwdrivers, Jason is no longer a one-weapon killing machine; his newfound creativity and speed make him a force to be reckoned with.

Despite the obvious momma's boy backstory shown through various details in the movie, Jason still comes across as a terrifying killer, though it may sometimes seem as if he's just a "scared human protecting his sacred ground," according to

Padalecki. Don't expect much by way of plot, even though Jason has more of a human side in this 2009 remake. The film stays true to the *Friday the 13th* franchise, in which the audience isn't meant to care about most of the characters. In the new film, it seems as if Clay and his sister were the only ones with a story worth mentioning aside from Jason's own story, so you're really only watching the movie to see who dies next.

Overall, this remake of the 1980 horror classic is worth seeing, especially for fans of the original film. *Friday the 13th* truly pays homage to the original films and will not disappoint old fans of the franchise.

It may even attract new fans in a way that critical and box-office failures such as *Freddy vs. Jason* could not. It's definitely a fun movie to see with friends late at night when you just want to be scared and entertained.



COURTESY OF ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM

At the infamous Camp Crystal Lake, Clay (Jared Padalecki) protects his sister Whitney (Amanda Righetti) from the dangerous and deadly Jason.

ARTIST
Ben Lee
ALBUM
The Rebirth of Venus
LABEL
New West Records
RELEASED
Feb. 10, 2009

Ben Lee has composed an ode to femininity in his newest album, *The Rebirth of Venus*. In songs such as "Boy With a Bar-bie" and "I'm a Woman Too," Lee pays homage to the female sex. While this idea is clever, Lee doesn't pull it off.

Problems with *The Rebirth of Venus* begin with the album art and continue with the songs. It is easy to determine what to expect from the album solely based on the cover art. In a hokey, modern-take of Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus*, Lee places himself as the central character in the composition.

In this album, Lee makes broad statements about humanity. This might be good if these statements weren't so obvious. Lee's underlying messages are barely disguised among the straight-forward lyrics.

Lee has never been known for having much superfluousness within his language. However, despite the lack of flowery lyrics, in the past he has been able to craft somewhat poignant songs.

Despite the shallow themes that run through *The Rebirth of Venus*, there is no lack of catchy choruses and hooks. The first track, "What's So Bad (About Feeling Good)?" is an excellent example of this. The titular lines are repeated throughout most of the song, and the background



vocals heard in this track, as well as in many others, add to the singing, pop feel of the album.

The EP released with the album features Lee's cover of songs such as MGMT's "Kids" and Against Me!'s "New Wave." The cover songs break from the cookie-cutter mold Lee has placed around the rest of the songs from *The Rebirth of Venus* and provide a nice break from the similar-sounding songs.

While this album is a solid, good listen, there is still something missing. The songs are catchy and guaranteed to put the listener in a good mood, but that is all that can be expected.

While listening to *The Rebirth of Venus*, one will be hard-pressed to find any life-changing revelations in the form of eloquent lyrics. Lee has been writing music since he was 14. One would expect that at the age of 30, Lee would have matured in his song-writing abilities.

The Rebirth of Venus proves those expectations wrong.

—Christina Warner

NEW VIBRATIONS

ARTIST
M. Ward
ALBUM
Hold Time
LABEL
Merge Records
RELEASED
Feb. 17, 2009

Hold Time, über-chill singer-songwriter Matthew "M" Ward's seventh studio album, proves that the folk superstar's velvety rasp will never go out of style.

The Portland, Ore.-based singer has carved quite a name for himself among the indie elite with his soft sound and multi-layered lyrics, as well as through his associations with bands like Bright Eyes and My Morning Jacket. Ward recently teamed up with actress Zooey Deschanel to form the duo She & Him, thus propelling him to quasi-stardom and expanded

notoriety.

Hold Time maintains most of the sedate smoothness for which Ward's earlier albums are so well known, but unlike 2006's *Post-War*, which ostensibly was intended for the future world rebuilt after the war in Iraq, *Hold Time* does not have an overall political tone.

Rather, Ward digs deeper into the human psyche, tapping into more introspective philosophy and blending it with slightly more daring musical choices. "Oh Lonesome Me," the 10th track on the album, for instance, covers a Don Gibson song and pairs Ward with country-music singer Lucinda Williams, while the second track "Never Had Nobody Like You" pummels a pop beat never before seen from Ward's repertoire.

Hold Time features several songs that will quickly become fan favorites. The album's opening track, "For Beginners," sets the bar high with its twangy melody and standard Ward finger-picking guitar strums. Ward's virtually whispered vocals mesh with the soft-tempo

beat, creating a perfect lullaby for the most extreme insomniac.

"Epistemology," the album's 11th track, is harsher than some of the opening songs, but the upbeat tempo and echo-filled vocals play passionately into the lyrics. The title, which refers to the philosophical study of the nature of knowledge, is reflected in the lyrics, which discuss knowledge derived from school, God and finally, from love.

The best song from *Hold Time* is undoubtedly "Jailbird," the album's third track and its most upbeat offering. Ward's combination of repeated hooks and rash rasp recalls Devendra Banhart and Andrew Bird.

He keeps the guitar strums strong and fast-paced and explores the relationship between the body and the soul, perhaps superficially, but tersely enough. "There's nothing but skin and bones hiding under a dead man's clothes/ six feet deep in a black box underground," Ward

sings, taking a darker turn from his airier, older works.

M. Ward's metamorphosis from garden-variety folksy singer-songwriter to modern-day indie star is unyieldingly evident in *Hold Time*. He combines hushed vocals with sharp country-twang and pairs surfer-friendly guitar riffs with pensive, probing lyrics.

Ward pays close attention to the power of subtle sound, allowing the music to wash over the listener with a commanding sense of calm. *Hold Time* may not be an inspiring album; neither is it a particularly profound piece of work. But it will certainly appeal to a generation of listeners looking for some delicate guidance or some soothing relief from harsher, more intense music. Keep 'em coming, M. Ward, keep 'em coming.

—Rebecca Fishbein



ARTIST
Morrissey
ALBUM
Years of Refusal
LABEL
Lost Highway
RELEASED
Feb. 16, 2009

In some ways, Morrissey is the Crown Prince of emo; he is well-coiffed, with lines swathed in sweeping instrumentation that profess things like "last night I dreamt that somebody loved me/ no hope no harm/ just another false alarm."

Still, whether it's in his iconic work with The Smiths or his fairly prolific solo career, Morrissey has every Fall Out Boy beat with his signature sardonic wit. This is more evident than ever on his latest disc, *Years of Refusal*.

His deep, emotive vocals are as rich as always and the backing band, the Tormentors, provide a muscular rock under-layer with their thick guitars and relentless drums. And yet, there seems to be a renewed sense of energy and immediacy to these tracks. This is evident right from the start with "Something Is Squeezing My Skull," which builds on an energetic riff with Morrissey's alternately ferocious and tongue-in-cheek vocals. He rattles off a litany of prescription drugs and ends with the intriguing couplet, "the motion of

taxis excites me when you peel it back and bite me."

This black-hearted raucousness characterizes *Years of Refusal*, whether it's the throbbing rhythms and yearning, yet accusatory, vocals of

"Mama Lay Softly On The Riverbed" or the sheer vigourousness of the stabbing guitars in "That's How People Grow Up," which contains the succinctly resonant sentiment, "let me live before I die."

Morrissey's sharp wit lends itself to being quotable, and this disc is full of one-liners. In "When I Last Spoke To Carol," he sings

"I've hammered a smile across this pasty face of mine." As the horns and textured background (including yelping and other random screeches) rise above him, they swallow this startling imagery.

Later, the song "It's Not Your Birthday Anymore" swerves from its gentle beginning of softly padded drums and Morrissey's soulful croon to a simmering kiss-off. He croons, "it's not your birthday anymore/ did you really think we meant all of those syrupy sentimental things that we said?" Morrissey, at his most ferocious, culls his most evocative

material, especially when the deceptively tender rhythms give way to the deeper bitterness that stew below.

Unfortunately, the previous vigorosity slips a bit after "Birthday." "You Were Good In Your Own Time" plods along for over five minutes and relies too much on ambient noise near the end.

"I'm Okay By Myself" is solid but lacks the confidence and spacious sounds of the earlier material here. Overall, *Years of Refusal* is a stunning return-to-form for one of rock's most controversial and brazenly confident figures, and it is worthy of repeated playing and delving into.

—Melanie Love



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

M.K. Zuravleff's racy read captures crowd

By **SANDHIRA WIJAYARATNE**
For the News-Letter

Introduced as a satirical writer who loves the world, Mary Kay Zuravleff certainly gave her audience some satire to chew on at her reading on Tuesday night.

No stranger to Hopkins, she graduated from the University with a Master of Arts in Writing Seminars and learned under such notable writers and Hopkins professors as John Barth and Stephen Dixon. Currently, Zuravleff is the 2008 to 2009 American University Writer-in-Residence.

The audience was filled with numerous IFP (Intro to Fiction and Poetry) students who were required to attend as well as the usual cluster of Writing Seminars graduate students. However, there were a number of other listeners who came out to hear the Oklahoma City native read from her latest novel-in-production.

Describing the untitled work, Zuravleff said it is a tale of two twin brothers who are distinguished as elder and younger by a mere six minutes. Before reading from one of the chapters, she said that this distinction would forever mark each of their future lives.

Zuravleff's effortless voice narrated the story of the elder brother, Will, a University of Pennsylvania student, who comes home for the summer and watches his dad get struck by lightning. At the hospital, Will leaves his unconscious father and the rest of his family to find solace and comfort in his annual summer companion, Kyra. His father's injuries release some emotional restraints inside Will and a long-brewed romance finally takes shape between him and Kyra that moves from the beach to the bedroom.

Both Zuravleff's writing and delivery hooked her audience from the beginning. With vivid, in-your-face descriptions of Will's nighttime drive to the sensuality of Kyra's body, Zuravleff did not shy away from anything. All of the audience was engaged.

They laughed when they were supposed to and exchanged looks and grins at the multiple sexual references and scenes. The audience listened intently as Zuravleff tirelessly voiced her piece, emphasizing dialogue and thoughts while making it clear who was saying what.

Even her transition of flipping

from page to page was entertaining; when Will and Kyra's sexual encounter traversed multiple pages, Zuravleff, fanning herself with her story, asked her audience, "Is it getting hot in here?"

Don't let this sex scene portray Zuravleff as a writer of romance novels who strives to create the steamiest episodes possible. Far from this, she is a notable writer with two successful books under her belt.

The Bowl is Already Broken is about a museum director struggling to keep internal forces from collapsing the museum. The titular broken Chinese bowl that falls down the museum's stairs in the first scene of the book is just one of a number of problems facing director Promise Whittaker.

Her other novel, *The Frequency of Souls*, winner of the James Jones First Novel Award and the Academy of Arts and Letters's Rosenthal Award, follows the lives of a refrigerator designer and his new colleague and the different role electricity plays in each of their lives. The designer seeks to use it to revive his business, while his officemate sees electricity as a tool to possibly prove that life exists after death.

When she finished reading the chapter, Zuravleff was greeted with gracious applause by the entire audience. She then started taking questions from her listeners, from which more of the author's affability and literary approach were revealed.

When one listener asked if she had a title for her current work, she said no and asked him whether he had one for her, which again drew laughter from the audience. She then threw out some title suggestions like *The Meter Man* or *The Light*, but went further into her holistic construction of the novel, saying that it is intricately connected from the title to the first line, from the characters to the sub-plot.

She said that titles were hard but important and that she often found herself "going to page 151, then back to page six," alluding to the difficulty of keeping a story well-tied. Another question from the audience revealed her novel-in-a-semester class at George Mason University, where she and her students wrote 40,000-word stories by the end of the term.

From her wonderful story-telling to her inviting personality, Zuravleff gained more and more acclaim with every word spoken.

Miniature Tigers talk touring with Ben Folds

By **CHRISTINA WARNER**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

They may have the word "miniature" in their name, but there is nothing small about this band. Miniature Tigers snuck onto the music scene like so many other artists these days via MySpace and have been gaining momentum ever since.

In March of 2008, they released two EPs, *Black Magic* and *White Magic*, and not long after that in August, they released their first full-length album, *Tell It To the Volcano*. Currently, for the month of February, they are performing as special guests on Ben Folds's tour.

Last Thursday, the tour stopped at Rams Head Live! and the *News-Letter* was able to ask this up-and-coming band some questions.

Although Baltimore was only their second show with Folds, the Tigers were really enthusiastic about the tour. "It's really awesome. We played our first show last night and it was so fun — just unbelievable," front man Charlie Brand said. "It was a great crowd, great energy."

Although they did a small, three-week tour with Lenka, this is only their second tour ever. After the tour ends, it will be quite a while before Miniature Tigers get a break. They are scheduled to play some shows with Dear and the Headlights and then Bishop Allen, not taking a breather until some time in April.

Brand says that while they do have a lot of material written, their next plans for recording depend on when they can make it into the studio, which will hopefully happen before the end of the year. But there doesn't need to be a huge rush to get back into the studio as they only just recently released their first LP.

Although the EPs and LP were released close together, the process of creating each was very different.

"I recorded the EPs with the same guy, but I recorded those before I hooked up with [drummer] Rick [Schaier]. But for [*Tell It To the Volcano*], Rick came in and we did more of a collaborative thing and worked on the album together. It was definitely a different experience," Brand said.

"It was magical," Schaier said. The catchy songs with ridiculously endearing lyrics are what make Miniature Tigers most unique.

Brand further commented on their songwriting process: "I usually just write everything on an acoustic guitar and then make demos with Garage Band. Then I'll show these guys and then we'll just learn them and interpret them live."

Among the bands that influence them the most are Grizzly Bear (which Brand says he is "really in love with right now"), Animal Collective, the Beach Boys, the Kinks, the Beatles and ABBA. While Miniature Tigers' sound cannot be pinpointed directly to any one band, it is obvious that they draw some inspiration from several of the artists listed above.

Throughout my conversation with Miniature Tigers, the whole band became most animated when I mentioned the television show *LOST*. It is clear that someone in the band is a fan of the show because not only do they allude to it in one of their songs, but Brand also has a Dharma Initiative sticker on his guitar.

However, Brand is not the only one who watches *LOST* — the entire band does. In fact, they were catching up on Wednesday's most recent episode when they were interrupted to do a sound check.

Generally, Miniature Tigers were in agreement that this season of *LOST* far surpasses previous seasons. And as with most discussions about *LOST*, Miniature Tigers couldn't help but throw out a few theories about it; the most random being that "John Locke will come back as Michael's son."

Miniature Tigers were personable during the interview and had great banter amongst themselves. They successfully carried this persona onstage when they opened for Folds.

Miniature Tigers opened the set with their most noteworthy single "Cannibal Queen." Although most people were there to see the modern-day piano man, Folds, the Miniature Tigers quickly won over the crowd with

lyrics like "This is not a test or an S.O.S./ I'm no longer on a quest to get girls undressed."

The Tigers had good onstage chemistry and played a handful of songs from *Tell It to the Volcano*. They also introduced a newer song of theirs called "Japanese Woman That Lives in My Closet." A strong comedic thread runs throughout each of their songs, and this one was no different.

The only disappointing aspect of their set was its length — they were on stage for hardly 30 minutes. The act that followed them, Treble in Paradise, an all-female cappella group, was on stage for the same amount of time.

This group from American

University was one of several collegiate cappella groups that won a contest by performing one of Ben Folds's songs. They performed their winning rendition of "Zac and Sara" along with a couple of others.

Eventually, Folds took the stage for an incredibly long set. His performance included a good variety of songs from his older albums *Rockin' the Suburbs* and *Songs for Silverman* as well as selections from his newest, *Way to Normal*.

Folds played an unmistakably excellent concert that demonstrated his amazing talent on the piano. However, he played most songs back-to-back, and with the

exception of teaching the crowd to harmonize, he didn't have much interaction with the audience.

As a whole, the concert itself was great; Folds once again proved what a talented musician he is and after Miniature Tigers' great opening performance, it is safe to say that their fan base just got a little bigger.

From their name and the members that comprise it, to the subject matter of their songs, everything about this band is endearing. Miniature Tigers should be kept on your radar because it's only a matter of time before they get as much fame as they deserve.

Can Slumdog manage to Milk the Oscars?

By **ALEX VOCKROTH**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Awards season is upon us, and this weekend's grand finale, the Academy Awards, will bring to our TV sets weeping winners, awkward entrances and maybe a few surprises.

The big show promises some major changes to the standard plodding program that producers hope will shake things up enough to keep viewers awake past the first hour. Producers made the unconventional decision to put stage and screen actor front and center as host of the ceremony, when past shows have generally featured comedians and host-types in the role. Jackman's no stranger to playing MC, though, as he has hosted the Tony Awards.

The show may also keep us alert by mixing up the traditional order in which awards are presented, a move that has been rumored over the last few weeks. Hopefully showrunners learned an important lesson from the tragic mistake from several years ago, when they lined up the nominees on stage, forcing one winner and four losers to share the same bittersweet spotlight.

Regardless of the method and theatrics employed, the awards themselves will still be the focus of the evening. *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, David Fincher's interpretation of the F. Scott Fitzgerald short story, leads the way in nominations with 13 nods. Danny Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire* is next with 10, followed by the biopic *Milk* and *Batman* sequel *The Dark Knight*, which boast eight nominations each. *Doubt*, *The Reader* and *Frost/Nixon* each received five nods.

It seems that by now, most everyone has accepted that Heath Ledger is a shoe-in for Best Supporting Actor for his ultra-creepy portrayal of the Joker in *The Dark Knight*. Ledger has already posthumously won every award he has been nominated for, and it's unlikely that the Academy will want to be the group to break the trend.

Best Supporting Actress is a harder category to call: Kate Winslet won the Golden Globe for *The Reader*, but she is up for the same role as lead actress this time around. Penelope Cruz took



COURTESY OF ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM
Benjamin Button, starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett, scored 13 Oscar nominations.

home the BAFTA Award for supporting, a fairly good predictor, but Viola Davis in *Doubt* and Taraji Henson as the mother in *Benjamin Button* could give her a hard time.

The lead performance categories also have some close races. Though all the Lead Actor nominees would be perfectly wonderful choices, the real race at this point is between Mickey Rourke, who revived his life and career with *The Wrestler*, and Sean Penn as Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man elected to office in California. Rourke received the Globe, but Oscar doesn't have a history of rooting for the down-and-out underdog, so Penn could very well take this one.

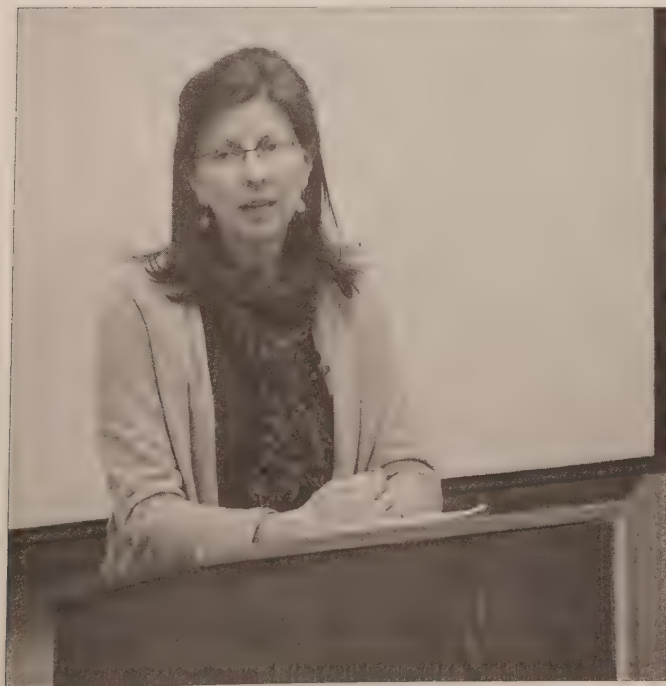
The Best Actress race is even trickier: Kate Winslet received the Globe for lead but for *Revolutionary Road*, not *The Reader*, which got her the Oscar nod. She did win for the lead role in *The Reader* at BAFTA, though Meryl Streep took home the Screen Actors Guild statue for *Doubt*. And some Hollywood folk have said that Melissa Leo could beat out both of these acting heavyweights for her role in *Frozen River*. Call it a cop out if

you want to, but this category is just too close to call.

This year, for the first time in five years, all of the Best Picture contenders are also up for Best Director. Not too surprising (in fact it seems strange that this doesn't occur more often), but that doesn't mean an automatic match for the two categories. Still, such an event seems likely in this case.

Danny Boyle seems to be the favorite for directing *Slumdog Millionaire*, and he did win the Golden Globe, the BAFTA award and the Directors Guild award. This unassuming indie flick shot out of nowhere to be the surprise hit of awards season. *Slumdog* also looks to be the favorite for Best Picture, as there is no clear second choice among the other four films (*The Reader*, *Milk*, *Frost/Nixon* and *Benjamin Button*).

With races as close as these, this year's Academy Awards ceremony is sure to — Oh, I'm being told to wrap it up. OK, um ... gosh, I'm so nervous! Um ... watch the 81st Annual Academy Awards this Sunday at 8:30 p.m. on ABC. OK, they're rushing me off now, sorry if I forgot anything, but ... thank you so, so much. This was truly an honor. Thank you.



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Zuravleff reads from her novel-in-progress at a Writing Seminars professional reading.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Nano-treated mucus blocks particles

Therapy that "tightens" mucus could be used to prevent respiratory infections and STIs

By AMY DUSTO
Staff Writer

Sneeze into a tissue this cold season and marvel at the mucus your body has created to try to protect you from infection.

What if you could enhance your mucus, altering it so that tiny nano-sized pathogens did not even fit through, while on the outside the mucus seemed exactly the same?

A Homewood research team drawn from the labs of Samuel

Lai, Richard Cone, Denis Wirtz and Justin Hanes may have discovered a way to do this. The medical applications of the new nanotechnology may be vast.

"Depending on the mucosal surfaces (i.e. the lung, GI tract, female reproductive tract, etc.) you can apply an aerosol puff, an oral dose or injection and be protected against dangerous entities, such as pathogens," Professor Lai in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering said.

Mucus is an elastic shield that selectively permits or traps particular particles from entering the immune system.

A variety of mucosal surfaces are found throughout the body, all of which are important to im-

mune function and other body processes, like eye blinking.

Mucus is made of bundles of sticky fibers which are likely driven together by hydrophobic interactions — the fibers are repelled by water and clump together in "dry" regions.

This aggregation leaves holes in between the bundle clumps which let tiny particles, some of which may be toxins, pass through.

The researchers hypothesized that adding a detergent agent

to the mucus would disrupt the bundles, breaking them up and making the space between clumps smaller and therefore allowing less passage of small particles.

In their study, the scientists used normal human cervicovaginal

mucus in laboratory preparations.

They added the detergent nonoxynol-9, a common ingredient in lubricants and condoms for its spermicidal and microbicidal properties.

Then they observed videos of fluorescently labeled probe beads, in diameters from 100 to 1,000 nanometers to correspond to various pathogen sizes, as they moved through the mucosal membrane.

The beads between 200 and 500 nanometers were hindered in passage through the detergent-treated mucus, suggesting that the experiment did indeed serve to tighten the space between fiber bundles.

Interestingly, at larger-than-nanoscale sizes, the detergent did not alter the properties of the mucus, which are necessary to allow the mucus to function as a lubricant and a particle-clearing structure.

How can the detergent only affect mucus on the nanoscale?

"While a finer mesh typically leads to more entanglement that increases the bulk rheological properties, this is offset by their reduced stickiness to each other, enabling us to specifically exert nanoscale alterations but not bulk macroscale alterations," Lai said.

In other words, the fibers are more spread out but are less able to stick to one another, creating a wider and less permeable mesh.

The implications of the study are promising, but further experiments are needed to be able to use the technique of mucus alteration for practical medical purposes.

The researchers are planning animal studies which will hopefully lead to human testing in the future. Nano-treated mucus membranes could block infections in many body areas.

First satellite collision in space adds to orbital debris



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.EXAMINER.COM](http://WWW.EXAMINER.COM)

A European Space Agency artist's conception of the rings of man-made debris encircling our planet. Last week's satellite collision has brought the issue of space debris — particularly its danger to manned spacecrafts — to a new level of debate.

You can apply an aerosol puff, an oral dose or injection and be protected against dangerous entities, such as pathogens.

— SAMUEL LAI,
PROFESSOR

Transition to digital television begins this week

By LILY NEWMAN
Layout Editor

Television stations in the United States have begun the transition to a digital signal, which will offer a higher quality TV signal and a greater capacity for information broadcasting to millions of consumers.

The long-planned switch is intended to bring TV broadcasting into the 21st century.

The mandatory national switch from analog to digital television, originally scheduled for last Tuesday, has been formally delayed until June 12.

Nevertheless, many TV stations across the country made the switch earlier this week, bringing better quality television to customers whose TVs are equipped to handle it.

Theoretically, a TV channel can broadcast a digital signal that is not of a substantially better quality than an analog one, but many television channels and programs have already upgraded their broadcasts to take advantage of the new technology.

A small number of customers who still rely on the older analog television sets are no longer able to access these digital channels.

The delay of the nationwide switch was passed through Congress earlier this month because of widespread concern that consumers are not prepared for the change.

People who pay for cable or satellite television service will automatically be switched to digital picture, but those currently using a roof antenna or other form of receiver will need new equipment if they wish to continue watching TV.

The current method of broadcasting television is known as analog. Analog television signal uses rasterized images (images that have been divided into squares called pixels).

The analog signal is transmitted by assigning each pixel a color value, which is transmitted through wavelike fluctuations of the TV signal.

An analog television interprets these variations and displays the pixels on the screen with the correct colors and in the

correct order.

Each television channel has an assigned frequency on which it broadcasts these signals, as well as the corresponding sound signals.

All of these frequencies for analog broadcasts are on the radio spectrum and share space with radio stations that only transmit sound.

Though this system works well and has for more than 50 years, digital television has gained popularity because of its higher resolution (a greater number of pixels on the screen).

Many homes already receive a digital television signal through satellite or cable and have newer televisions capable of receiving

mation to be broadcast.

An important distinction is the difference between digital television (DTV) and high definition television (HDTV).

Digital television, as described above, is becoming the new standard for television in the U.S. and will be the sole broadcasting format.

Any television can display DTV if it is built to or is connected to a converter, which are being supplied by the federal government to those who need one.

HDTV is the highest resolution digital television currently available in the United States. Its maximum resolution is 1920 x 1080 pixels.

HDTV can only be viewed on

This lag in consumer readiness has many causes. One is related to problems with the "Analog Converter Box Coupon Program."

This government funded program run by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has been giving out a maximum of two vouchers per home to anyone who requested them since 2005.

Nursing home residents and individuals with P.O. box addresses were approved to start receiving coupons on Sept. 16, 2008.

The vouchers, worth \$40 each, can be put toward the purchase of digital-to-analog converters and are meant to defray the cost

of the digital transition for those who have analog televisions and are currently receiving signal for free via an antenna.

Unfortunately, the program used all of its \$1.34 billion allotment by Jan. 4, 2009 and was forced to create a waitlist for those still seeking vouchers. Since the coupons expire 90 days after they are received, some people request them but do not redeem them. This enables the NTIA to re-issue a certain number of vouchers to people on the waitlist.

The NTIA is awaiting additional funding so it can continue distributing coupons.

Added to the shortage of coupons is a shortage of converter boxes themselves.

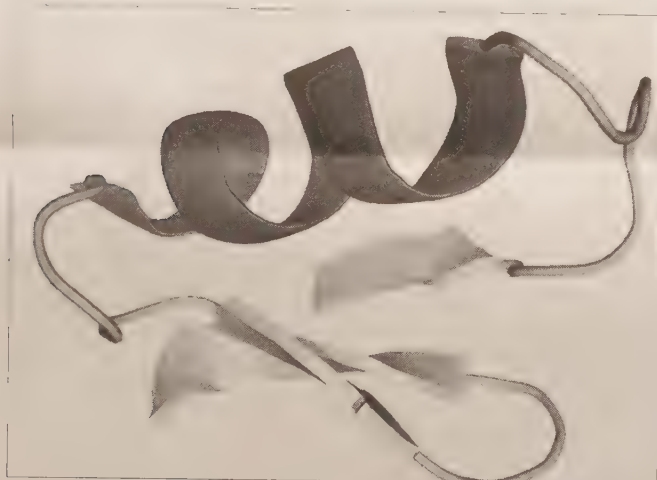
Thinking they had estimated correctly, manufacturers stopped making converter boxes once they achieved their target numbers for production, but it now appears that the units currently on the market will sell out by the end of February.

This has prompted manufacturers to start production again, but new converters will not be available until April.

Many European countries have already made the switch to DTV, as did Hawaii on Sunday.

The recent economic stimulus package passed last week by the House of Representatives and the Senate allocated \$650 million for continuing the NTIA coupon program.

Hopefully, this money, combined with the revised June deadline, will facilitate a smooth transition for the rest of the country.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.WIKIMEDIA.ORG](http://WWW.WIKIMEDIA.ORG)

The structure of chlorotoxin, a protein that can prevent cancer cells from spreading.

Toxic nanoparticles used to prevent tumor cell spread

By BARBARA HA
Staff Writer

Nanoparticles are of great interest to scientists searching for new non-invasive cancer therapies. Their ultra-small size and almost infinite variations of function allow them to interact with tumor cells in complex ways.

Scientists at Hopkins, the University of Washington and the National Cancer Institute have discovered a nanoparticle that can both inhibit the invasion of healthy cells by tumor cells and simultaneously serve as an agent that provides contrast for MRIs, allowing the cancerous areas to be imaged as therapy is administered.

Most current chemical therapies for cancer deliver chemotherapeutic agents that cause apoptosis, or programmed cell death, in the cancer cells.

Approaching this dilemma from a new angle, the group used nanoparticles to inhibit tumor cells from invading healthy cells. The nanoparticle's main component that provides it with this unique function is a small protein, or peptide, called chlorotoxin.

This peptide, along with an iron oxide core and a slippery coat of polyethylene glycol, enables the nanoparticle to bind with the tumor cells of many cancers. Use of these nanoparticles yielded an invasion inhibition rate of approximately 98 percent when bound to the toxin.

The iron oxide has an inducible magnetic field, allowing researchers to visualize the loca-

tion of the nanoparticles.

Gliomas, the most deadly category of brain tumor, are highly susceptible to this method of therapy. Its growth has shown to be extremely rapid and highly invasive into normal tissue.

The exact mechanism of this tumor cell invasion remains unknown, but scientists believe that these tumors produce a substance that breaks down barriers in their environment, allowing them to invade neighboring cells.

By inhibiting such invasions, chlorotoxin nanoparticles can serve as the first step in early detection and treatment of gliomas in individuals.

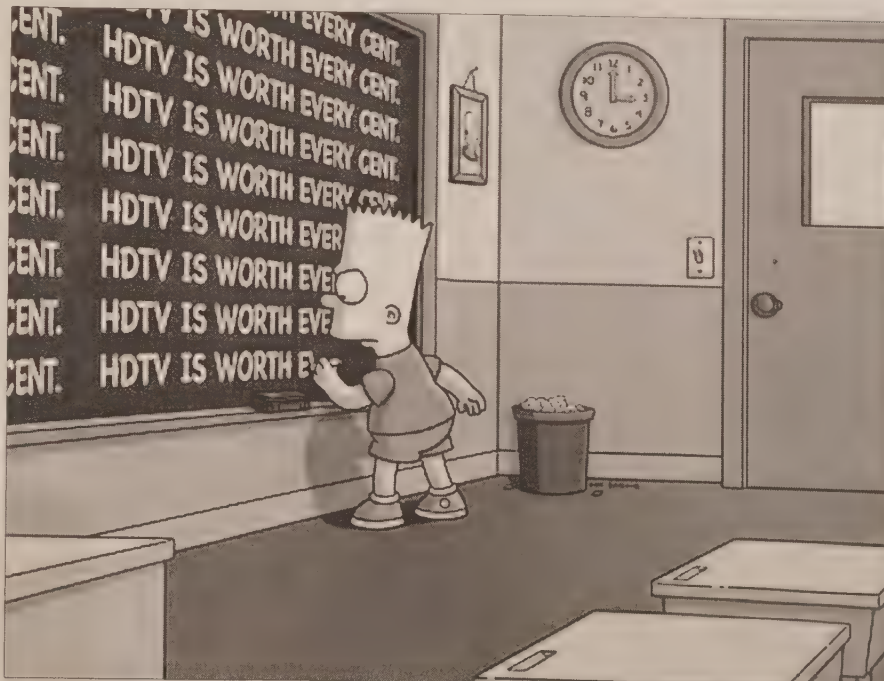
Experiments were conducted using glioma tumor cells. Nanoparticles incubated with tumor cells were shown to be able to permeate through the cells' membranes.

The researchers showed that chlorotoxin-bound nanoparticles were significantly more capable of inhibiting tumor cell invasion than empty nanoparticles.

The nanoparticle structure allows the chlorotoxin to more readily permeate the cell membrane.

In the future, chlorotoxin-bound nanoparticles might also be used to provide less invasive treatments to patients with other cancer types, including cancers of the breast, colon, skin, lung, prostate and ovaries.

These nanoparticles provide doctors with a new means of providing non-invasive diagnosis and treatment of a great number of tumors to aid in available medical care.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.IGN.COM](http://WWW.IGN.COM)

The Simpsons is one of many recent U.S. television programs to unveil a new high-definition digital broadcast.

that signal.

A typical analog television screen has about 512 x 400 pixels, while the popular white MacBook has a maximum resolution five times greater, at 1280 x 800.

People are so used to computer screens now that the inferior quality of an analog television image is obvious to most.

Digital transmission also has the added bonus of taking up less space on the radio spectrum, which means that the government can transmit additional public safety announcements, and independent corporations can offer new or expanded services like wireless Internet.

Additionally, since digital signals broadcast data more quickly, television channels now have the option of splitting up their data and creating sub-channels, allowing many times more infor-

an HDTV-ready television unit, meaning one that is able to display the high resolution that is required.

Most HDTV-ready models can also display digital and even analog signals without additional equipment, but they do not turn analog or digital into HDTV.

The move to digital television was discussed throughout the 1990s and was originally proposed to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 1997.

Since then, mainly in the last two years, more than a billion dollars have been spent on advertising digital television, its benefits and the plan for transition.

In spite of this effort, 6.5 million households are currently not equipped to ensure television reception after the transition.

Platelets might protect from malaria

Work in Australian lab suggests that platelets might be first line of defense against parasite

By **SAM OHMER**
Staff Writer

Nearly 400 million people worldwide suffer from malaria infections each year. Half a million will die this year from this serious infection of the blood.

Needless to say, finding a cure or vaccination for malaria is quite high on public health organizations' to-do lists. But malaria is difficult to eradicate because it mutates quickly, leading to drug resistance and because the pathogens that cause malaria are found in areas that put nearly one-third of the world's population at risk.

Brendan McMorran of the University of Tasmania in Australia and of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute has led a team of researchers who are mainly occupied with finding out what exactly makes the malaria parasites tick — and even better, what makes them go boom!

Providence led the way for this latest discovery; it was noticed that mice with platelet deficiencies were especially susceptible to malarial infections. But why should this be?

It would make a lot of sense that, if a deficiency of platelets were correlated with more severe infections, then an abundance of platelets would impede the infection's development. Indeed, that is exactly what McMorran and colleagues have discovered.

By studying mice and human cells in culture, McMorran and his team have seen that platelets preferentially latch onto infected red blood cells — the cells that the malaria parasites have infected. And in so doing, it seems like the platelets help (somehow) to sequester and/or directly kill the infected cells for death.

What's even better is that the platelets seem to arrest the parasites' development. This means that they help slow the illness's progress early on.

Platelets seem to be attracted to CD41, a cell surface marker that has increased expression in the infected red blood cells. When more platelets are available in the blood stream, these additional platelets help to kill



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.WT.EDU](http://www.wt.edu)
A high-magnification image of platelets clumping together, as in the malaria response.

more and more of the infected red blood cells as compared with the number of dead cells seen in mice with a decreased number of platelets.

In the experiments McMorran and his colleagues performed, it appears that platelets are most useful as a defense in the early stages of infection.

"We found that platelets were binding to the infected red blood cells, and this binding resulted in the killing of the parasites inside (the red cell)," McMorran said.

"We think that during an infection, platelets help by slowing or buffering the growth of the parasite in the bloodstream until other cells involved in immune defense can begin to control the infection."

After the platelets have done as much as they can do, the body's natural defense system must take over, in order to develop at least a minimal immunity.

Unfortunately, platelets' anti-malarial activity can be inhibited and is in fact inhibited by a rather common medication: aspirin. For the same reason that aspirin helps in the case of a heart attack (it helps prevent clotting), aspirin also decreases the positive effects increased platelet levels can have in fighting the infection.

While the platelets have to accumulate on the red blood cells in order to cause the eventual death of the infected host cell, aspirin, because it disrupts the accumulation of platelets, can inhibit the beneficial effects of platelets' actions as they attempt to destroy infected cells.

Despite this fascinating discovery, the precise mechanisms of platelets' actions against malarial infections remain unclear. "The next step is to understand how the platelet is killing the parasite," McMorran said. "Understanding how may reveal new antimalarial treatments."

Structure of viral shell is determined

By **JEFFREY SIEGEL**
Staff Writer

Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) is a common pathogen — virtually everyone is infected at one point in their lives — that can cause mononucleosis (or "mono") and two rare forms of cancer.

Scientists at the medical school have discovered a protein that is essential for the assembly of the virus, an important advance that might help researchers design new antiviral drugs to treat EBV and other related herpesviruses.

A team at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, led by virologist Prashant Desai, has been studying capsids, the protein shell of viruses. "Most of our studies have been on herpes simplex virus capsids," Desai said.

EBV is a member of the large class of herpesviruses that cause a range of infectious diseases, including various STIs and several types of cancer.

Knowledge about the structure and assembly of a capsid from its protein subunits is important for understanding the mechanisms of viral transmission and illness. Unfortunately, little is known about the capsids of the class of herpesviruses that includes EBV.

"The herpesvirus capsids are made up of six proteins that interact together to produce an icosahedral structure. The capsid proteins have an inherent ability to self-assemble into these structures if expressed together." An icosahedron is a solid object with 20 sides.

EBV and related viruses are notoriously difficult to work with in cell culture. Instead, Desai and his team found a way to express and purify the capsid proteins in insect cells. "Because this method works so well we can really probe the assembly of these structures using mutational studies," Desai said.

They found that those six capsid proteins are the only ones required for assembly of the shell of EBV, like in other viruses of that type. In other words, given the six proteins, the viral capsid

can self-assemble inside the cell.

By mutating the six proteins one by one, Prashant's team was able to investigate the role of each of the proteins in the assembly of EBV. They found one protein in particular to be important. "We have discovered that a small protein that decorates these capsids is essential for assembly. Thus this small capsid protein could potentially serve as a new antiviral target for gammaherpesviruses (the class of virus that includes EBV)," Desai said.

Desai believes that drugs could be made to disrupt the functioning of the protein, preventing assembly of the capsids and thereby making it harder for the viruses to reproduce.

In addition to being a possible target for future antivirals, these capsids have other medical uses. First, they could be used to trace infection in living cells by tracing the presence of the capsid proteins. Desai pointed to Kaposi's sarcoma herpesvirus (KSHV), another cancer-causing virus that is closely related to EBV.

"The small capsid protein in KSHV is an important immuno-

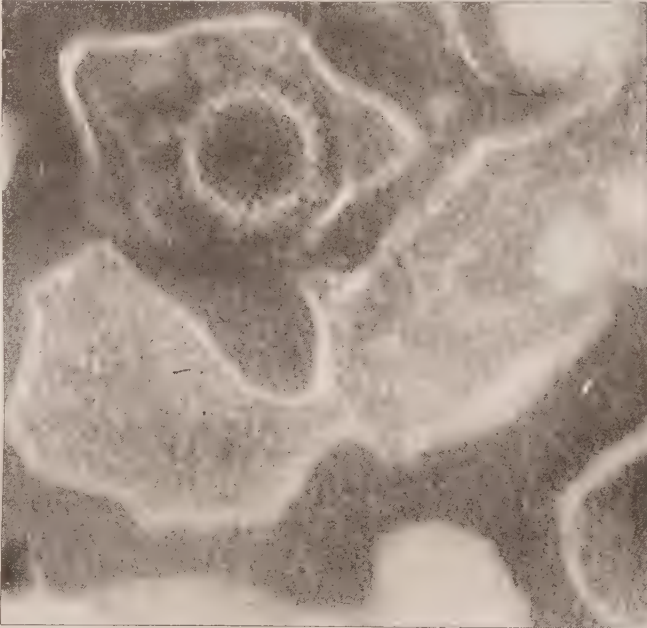
logical reporter for KSHV infection and so these capsids can also serve as a new platform for developing serological tools," Desai said.

Serological tools are methods of determining the presence of specific proteins in the bloodstream. The presence of KSHV capsid in the blood is a sensitive sign of infection by the virus — one that might be easier to detect than the full virus or its DNA.

Furthermore, these capsids are plausible candidates for vaccines, since they do not contain any viral genetic material and therefore cannot produce an infection.

The vaccine against human papillomavirus, which prevents infection by the virus that causes cervical cancer, was made from virus-like particles, which stimulate the immune system but are not infectious.

The empty capsids of EBV and related herpesviruses could therefore be used to stimulate an immune response without causing illness, thus conferring immunity against viral infections. Capsids are thought to be safer than living or damaged viruses.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.WIKIMEDIA.ORG](http://www.wikimedia.org)
An electron micrograph of Epstein-Barr virus shows their roughly spherical capsids.

Protein screen allows new stem cell studies

By **NEIL NEUMANN**
Staff Writer

The field of stem cell research has continued to flourish with last month's approval of the first human embryonic stem cell-derived therapy to treat paralysis. As important a milestone as this is in the field, more work is needed to define the mechanisms by which embryonic stem cells become mature tissues, such as neurons.

This process of differentiation and maturation is dependent on the expression of specific proteins at specific times in the cell's development. Scientists have been interested in finding out more about these proteins, in the hope of one day being able to directly control their expression patterns, thereby forcing a stem cell to mature into a particular cell type.

A team from the medical school has pioneered a novel method to study the expression patterns of proteins in embryonic stem cells as they differentiate into motor neurons and astrocytes, a supporting cell in the brain. The results are published in the *Journal of Proteome Research*.

"We chose to study the development of embryonic stem cells into neural cells as these cells are potentially the first type of cells, except for bone marrow, that will be successfully implemented in stem cell-based therapies," Candace Kerr, an assistant professor at the medical school and a leading co-author of the study, said.

Stem cells are complex cells with two major defining properties: They can self-renew (make more of themselves), and they can become any cell in their lineage. There are many types of stem cells, but they can be put into the two categories of embryonic and adult stem cells.

Embryonic stem cells are derived from the cells of the inner cell mass of an embryo. Adult stem cells are tissue-resident cells that maintain adult tissues for the life of the organism.

The researchers looked at

1,200 different proteins at different time points as the embryonic stem cells were differentiated into motor neurons and astrocytes.

Previous research has only been able to look at four time points simultaneously, whereas this research could look at eight different time points during the differentiation process.

It is especially useful because it offers a novel temporal analysis of stem cell differentiation. The method uses cells at each of the eight different time points, isolates the proteins inside each of the cells and then specifically labels the proteins with chemical modifiers. The proteins are then analyzed using a mass spectrometer, which separates molecules based on their size.

Once the protein sizes have been determined, the relative expression of each protein can be analyzed and compared to the other time points.

"The main question we asked was whether there were unique proteins that these cells express that can be used to distinguish them from different kinds of neural cells," Kerr said.

This research has identified new proteins involved in the differentiation process to motor neurons and astrocytes, as well as confirming proteins long thought to play a role.

Some proteins follow a trend of decreasing expression as the embryonic stem cells go to motor neurons. This is in contrast to other proteins that increase expression relative to embryonic stem cells.

The results retrieved from the new method were confirmed by using traditional methods such as western blotting and immunohistochemistry — both of which involve antibodies binding specifically to proteins.

Although this research method identified novel proteins involved in maintaining the embryonic stem cell as well as proteins involved in differentiation, it missed some proteins that have been shown to be critical for maintaining embryonic stem

cells.

A drawback to this approach is that some transcription factors have a huge effect on the state of the cell but are expressed at low levels in the cell. Therefore, some important proteins could have been missed by this study because its sensitivity is still quite low.

However, the research does have major implications for the future of taking stem cells from the laboratory bench into clinical studies. "From this study, potential candidate markers can be targeted as potential ways in which to provide pure populations of neural cells for transplant therapy," Kerr said.

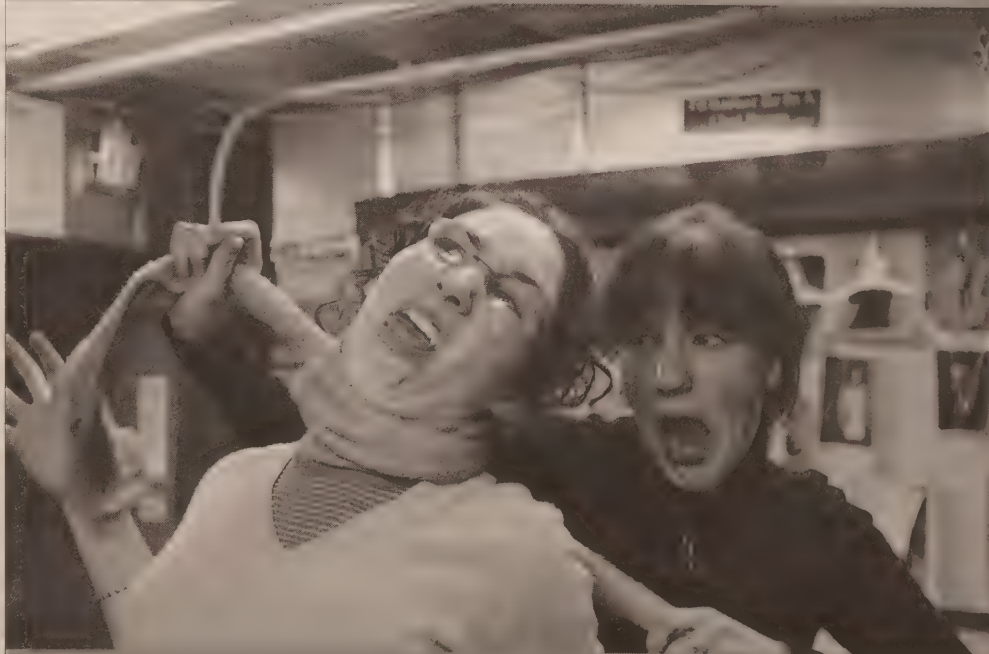
The recently approved clinical trial of embryonic stem cells could potentially require the information derived from this study. The new clinical trial uses oligodendrocytes, another type of nervous system tissue, to help repair the spinal cord. A first step before taking these cells to the clinic is making sure the cells are pure, or all the same kind.

"Isolation of pure populations of cells for any therapy use is not only important for safety concerns but also for optimizing their potential success in treating such afflictions as ALS, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and Huntington's disease, to name a few," Kerr said.

It is the same standard required for drug-based therapies. For instance, if a drug is actually made up of two types of drugs, there could be adverse side-reactions. The same goes for cellular therapies. If the cell population is not pure, then that small subset of cells could go rogue and form a cancer inside the patient.

Future work in this field will look at more efficient ways to derive differentiated cells for stem cell therapies. This is a necessary hurdle that must be cleared before taking stem cell therapies into the clinic. Kerr said that this is "an issue which will be critical as millions of cells and costly culturing materials are required to treat a single patient."

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter



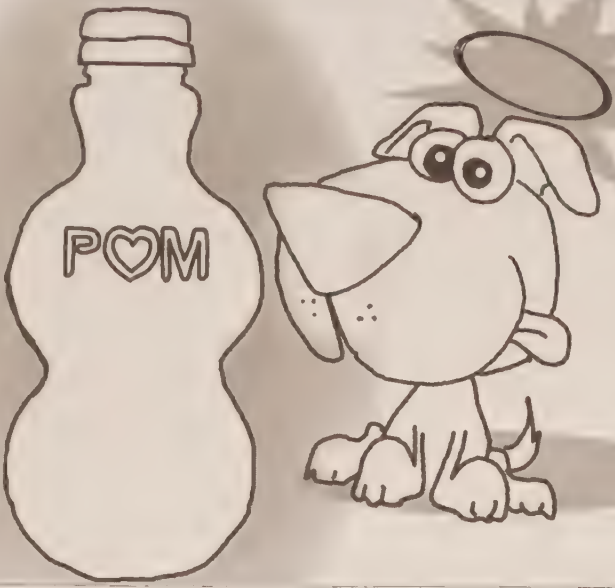
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YOUR NEWS-LETTER

The great importance of cuteness

CUTE!



Last week, I discovered the cutest thing ever lurking at the back of the Charles Street Market: the POM tea bottles. I don't know how else to describe them except to say that they are cuteness incarnate. They're perfect — perfectly round, perfectly shaped, perfectly capped in kiwi green . . . In spite of the fact that I don't really drink tea, I bought four and promptly carried them home to share the joyous tidings with my roommates, thinking that they would also be thrilled to rejoice in my discovery.

Interestingly enough, they were unmoved. I asked again and again whether or not they understood the profound cuteness of what I was showing them, and over and over they would reply something to the effect of "Oh, yeah, you haven't seen that before?" I was stunned at the lack of enthusiasm over something so impeccably cute.

I'll admit, I am incredibly susceptible to cuteness. If you look at my shower, I may not have the best products, but all the bottles are scrumptious-looking. I like small cars. I only like cats before they reach a certain age. Every guy I've ever hooked up with has

been at least a 7/10 on a cuteness scale. Pink is my favorite color. The more I think about it, the more I realize: Cuteness practically runs my life.

I'm not the only person who is like this. While my obsession with cuteness may be a bit more pervasive than other people's, cuteness is something that influences all of us. In psychology,

Emma Brodie

Emma's Dilemma

they call it the "halo effect" — in other words, when someone is cute we automatically attribute other good qualities to them that they might not deserve, and as a result they get better treatment. When is this not true? Hot chicks score free drinks, good service and a plethora of bag-carrying, door-opening favors all the time while the Plain Janes are left to fend for themselves.

Same goes for men. I know a guy who is pretty annoying, but he has this incredible sounding voice, so in spite of being a jerk, no one seems to care because he sounds so good doing it. I know another guy who had a habit of showing up at girls' rooms at 5

a.m. and getting into bed with them . . . and somehow it's OK because he's so cute. And I needn't repeat my opinions about the Edward Cullen phenomenon.

Think about Hollywood for a moment. We guzzle up genuinely average people's lives in the form of E! Hollywood news, *Us Weekly*, and Perez . . . Why? It's definitely not because of their stellar political opinions or their brilliant witticisms. It's because they're so damn cute.

So what is it about cuteness that is so important? I've come to the conclusion that cuteness makes people happy because we equate cuteness with good, and let's face it, we're always trying to add more good to our lives. Take my POM bottles, for example. Why do I like them so much? It's because I like carrying them around. It makes me feel cuter to be holding something so cute — to be associated with it. In fact, there is nothing cute about this POM tea — as I said earlier, I don't really like tea. It's simply because I enjoy the bottle so much.

So how does this translate to other aspects of our lives? How much of the reason we associate with our chosen social crowd is because we like them and how much is because they make us feel better about the overall quality or cuteness of our lives?

How many guys are dating girls who, were they not as cute, they wouldn't be able to stand? How many girls are obsessed with guys who treat them like crap because the guys are cute? How many annoying, yapping little dogs are tucked into the purses of random women who thought it would be a good idea to get a walking squeak toy in order to make herself feel cuter? How often do you smile at someone just because you like the way they look?

I think the reason cuteness is such a seductive industry is because it can be cultivated. Intelligence you can't change. Height you can't change. Family history of heart disease you can't change. But cuteness? Anyone can make themselves cuter. There's always something to buy, something to do, something to be or to watch that will make you cuter, make you "happier." And if there's always something new to try, whether it's a new mascara or being up on the latest celebrity gossip, you can never become tired of it. The only problem is, at this rate, you'll also never feel like you're cute enough.

When it comes down to it, I think cuteness is important. I also think it's something to be wary of. As someone who drinks the "cuteness Kool-Aid" regularly, I can tell you that while it's a scenic road, it's also a bumpy one. While cuteness is a pleasure, it's also a distraction. For the day-to-day stuff, you can get by if you just turn off your brain and follow the shiny object; but eventually that sort of mentality will land you in an unpleasant situation, and you will have been so zoned out you won't even know how you got there.

The big decisions should be made eyes closed, ears closed, just listening to *your own* thoughts and how they instruct you. Because, let's face it — if you don't, you could end up glorifying a plastic bottle.

ANIMAL HYBRIDS



COURTESY OF WWW.STRANGEHYBRIDS.COM

A Jaguar/Lion Hybrid/

JAGLION

Half male jaguar, half lioness, this beautiful creature has the coloring of a lion with the build of a jaguar.

ZONKEY

A zebra-donkey hybrid, these strange animals often have the body of a donkey with zebra-striped legs.



COURTESY OF WWW.STRANGEHYBRIDS.COM

A Zebra/Donkey Hybrid



COURTESY OF WWW.SLICE-OF-LIEF.COM

A Lion/Tiger Hybrid.

LIGER

Yes, Napoleon Dynamite would never lie, ligers do exist! This artificial pairing of a male lion with a tigress is the largest cat in the world.

LABRA-DOODLE

Increasingly common, this blend of labrador and standard poodle is quickly becoming a household staple.



COURTESY OF WWW.ALLERGYESCAPE.COM

A Labrador/Standard Poodle Hybrid

Compiled by Cara Selick

YOUR tracks

Compiled by Adi Elbaz

The Top Nine Weirdest Things On My Ipod: I have no idea where most of this stuff came from. YouTube, probably.

1. Verka Serdutchka — "Parody of Dancing"

I'm not witty enough to find the words for Ukraine's submission to Eurovision 2007, so I'll borrow from *The Office*: "Even for the Internet, it's . . . shocking."

2. Jamie and Frank — "Anti-Drug Love Song"

A straight-edge serenade with brilliant lines like "If you want me to hate you, go smoke some pot." Oh Jamie, you adorable straight-edge masked avenger. We could have been best friends if you . . . y'know . . . didn't hate everyone except for hardcore Mormons and asthmatics.

3. Chip Skylark — "My Shiny Teeth and Me"

A paean to . . . shiny teeth! The best incentive I can think of to floss every night.

4. Say Yes to Me — "Livni Boy"

Israel's answer to Obama Girl: an emaciated teenager's love song to the quasi-PM, with lines like "Tzipi, I will be your man. Just say yes to me." Which, heads up, Israel, isn't really how the voting system works . . . which actually explains *so much*.

5. Zorak — "My Heart is Full of Hatred"

I think this song is sung from a grasshopper's point of view. An angry, angry grasshopper. Best line: "I am Zorak. You are crap!"

6. The Lucksmiths — "Adolescent Song of Mindless Devotion"

Okay, this song is more quirky than weird, but it deserves to be here anyway. Because The Lucksmiths are amazing.

7. Hello Saferide — "My Best Friend"

This one is for all the straight girls who are kinda sick of dudes who act like, well, dudes . . . and I guess for the creepsters who fantasize about them. "Damn, I wish I was a lesbian and that you were too, so I could fall in love with you."

8. Gunther — "Ding Ding Don"

"Ooh, you touched my tra-la-lal!" Fun party activity: coming up with alternate words for tra-la-la. Like, say, "esophagus." Even more fun party activity: YouTube-ing the video. No, really. You'll thank me, provided you don't die laughing first.

9. Aqua — "Barbie Girl"

Yeah, I know this song was really big when we were, like, nine, and we all really liked it because it was about Barbies, but seriously, the entire concept and all the lyrics are *horrifying* and bizarre. I don't know why Aqua continued churning out music . . . or why I have their CD.

your Horoscope



Aries: (March 21 - April 19)

Your week is going to be pretty easy . . . If you think that two tests, three papers, over a thousand pages of reading and a lab is easy.



Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)

Adorable? You bet you are! Too bad you're the only person in this entire universe who thinks so . . . Reality check!



Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)

Pet something soft to soothe you while stressing over work. Just make sure that something soft isn't your teacher's head.



Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)

Kitten pictures are too cute to resist. Especially LOL cats. Just make sure to still do your homework by the end of the night.



Leo: (July 23 - Aug. 22)

May is just around the corner! Just hold on — another . . . two or three months and you'll be done with yet another semester!



Virgo: (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Have fun during Valentine's Day? Did your guy waste a lot of money on you? Good. Now you can finally dump the chump!



Libra: (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

Some people may think that legalizing pot is a good idea, but some people also think that *Beavis and Butt-head* was a funny show.



Scorpio: (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Killer bees are going to swarm in through your dorm window and sting you to death. I suggest keeping your windows closed.



Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Lion sharp reactions? I don't think so! I just wrote on the back of your neck while you read this, and you didn't even notice!



Capricorn: (Dec. 23 - Jan. 19)

DNA is important in determining who we are. This week, call up mom and dad and thank them for making you so socially awkward.



Aquarius: (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Inside and out, you are just one fantastic person! Oh wait, sorry, I meant to say that to the Virgos, my bad.



Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)

It may seem like this semester is dragging on forever . . . and that's because it is. Don't expect the torture to end any time soon.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
ELIZABETH ROGERS - SWIMMING

Freshman swimmer shatters school records

Rookie Rogers finds her stroke as the Lady Jays' best freestyler, shattering three Hopkins school records

By BRETT SCHWARTZ
For the News-Letter

Elizabeth Rogers sure is making a splash this season. A freshman from North Palm Beach, Flor., Rogers broke three school records in the three days she competed over the weekend. Rogers and the Jays competed at the Blue Grass Mountain Conference Championship in Charlotte, N.C. last week.

The Jays came very close to repeating their win of last year, as they finished a close second to the University of Tampa. The women tore apart the record book as records were broken in the 200 medley, 400 medley and 800 medley. Rogers individually set school records in the 50, 100 and 200 medley. Although she was happy to break three school records, Rogers enjoyed the team aspects of the races.

"I was really excited to break a few records, only because they were my best times all season," Rogers said. "It's obviously always more satisfying to go fast. I was definitely more excited for the team medleys because it is more fun to break a record with other teammates."

Rogers believes her 50m and 100m records are due to her passion for sprinting. "I like to be able to go all out for a short time; holding a consistent pace for an extended amount of time is not as fun to me," she said.

She also attributes a lot of her success to her coaches. "I really like how Coach Kennedy is there for support and advises you on what to do but also lets me help improve myself," Rogers said. "He has definitely helped me with technique, and Assistant Coach Dani has helped me with starts and more efficient turns."

Rogers also thanked her teammates for their support and help throughout the year. She believes each teammate is an integral part

of the team and looks up to many of the team's captains. "I especially look up to Jackie Rooney because she is a sprinter and always very energetic. She always does a good job of motivating people," she said.



COURTESY OF BRETT SCHWARTZ
Despite her "newbie" status, Rogers has managed to break three records at Hopkins.

When Rogers is not in the pool, she is busy studying and involving herself in other activities. Rogers has not yet declared a major but will most likely study behavioral biology. She also hopes to attend medical school after her stay at Hopkins.

"I chose Hopkins for its very strong undergraduate program and pre-med track. I believe the swim team and the academic side of things are a good balance for me," she said.

She had narrowed her top two schools to Hopkins and the University of Florida. Besides Hopkins's strong academics, she also really liked the size. "I really had it narrowed down between the two schools," Rogers said. "The

University of Florida has a great program, but I thought it was a little overwhelming. Hopkins is a lot smaller and has a strong swim team but is not all-consuming."

Other than studying and swimming, Rogers spends her

help construct the building."

She also recently enjoyed the Global Medical Brigade because it relates to her planned major, and she hopes it will help her out in the future.

Rogers is also contemplating joining the track team in the spring. "I never did track in high school because swimming was a year-round thing," she said. "Although we have captain's practices in the fall, there is a definitive end to the season in late winter. So I'm excited to try something new."

Having grown up in Florida, Elizabeth Rogers spent a lot of her time in the pool and at the beach. She also played soccer and volleyball and still enjoys hanging out with her friends. She has enjoyed spending time with her new friends here at Hopkins.

"The freshmen are especially close because we mostly live together. But overall, the entire team is really close and we bond really well together," she said.

So how did Rogers end up being this fast as only a freshman in college? She attributes much of her success to her time and dedication in the pool.

"I've been swimming consistently for the past 11 years," she said. "My mom taught me to swim at a very early age, and that was kind of the norm living in Florida."

Rogers's favorite part of swimming is the competition. She really enjoys being able to see that all her hard work has paid off.

"The biggest obstacle is putting all the little things together," Rogers said. Especially in the sprints, you need to be able to put together a near perfect start and turns. You can swim 100 times and only have one race where you put it all together."

Over the past weekend, Rogers sure seemed to defeat the odds. Three school records in three days is as close to perfect as you can come.

The Jays take to the water on Saturday at the Seahawk Invitational in St. Mary City, Md. before they prepare for NCAA championships. Check back with the News-Letter to see if Rogers and the Jays prevail.

VITAL STATISTICS

Year: Freshman

Major: Behavioral Biology

Hopkins Highlights:

Set school records in the 50 free, the 100 free and the 200 medley in three days at the Blue Grass Championships.

BLUE JAY LACROSSE CORNER

Both the men's and women's lax teams open their seasons this weekend at Homewood Field. Sports Editor Kat Baselice previews the matchups as the men take on Siena and the women take on George Mason.

HOPKINS vs. SIENA
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20
6 p.m. @ Homewood Field

The 2009 campaign begins this Friday at 6 p.m. The Jays will face off against the Siena Saints for the first time ever, a game that will jump-start Hopkins into a challenging and relentless schedule that will test the Jays' ability to cope with the loss of some of the team's top players.

Needless to say, this game will be a preview for just how well Hopkins has adjusted and what we can expect from the Jays in the coming months. Here's the breakdown:

An Athletic D — After graduating the majority of their starting attack and losing a powerful duo on midfield, the Jays now turn to its defense to make the statement for the team in the opening game against the Saints. Coached by arguably one of the best defensive players ever to play the sport, Hopkins looks to make the most of its depth, with a rotating rope unit that will keep players fresh and ready to go throughout the game. Senior defenseman and co-captain Michael Evans and senior defenseman Matt Drenan combine athleticism with an experience of the Hopkins system that will make them both powerful weapons on the defensive side of the field.

Attack-Heavy Offense — With a less stable midfield, Hopkins focuses its attention on the attack to make big plays on the offensive side of the field. Pietramala looks to go six-deep on offense, shifting gears from previous years.

The strength of the attack lies in the hands of Steven Boyle, who has 42 goals and 29 assists under his belt and repeatedly drew the top defensemen in his last two seasons with Hopkins. Kyle Wharton will benefit from a good game with Boyle. Wharton's

lefthand shot will be an asset for the Jays.

Who to watch for:

Mike Evans — Evans is consistently called on to mark the opposition's top attackman, and this game should be no different. Look for Evans to make critical stops throughout the game.

Who to watch out for:

Brent Herbst — The Saint's goalie was ranked first in the nation last season. He saved 153 shots and allowed only 6.07 goals per game.

HOPKINS vs. GEORGE MASON
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21
1 p.m. @ Homewood Field

The women's lacrosse team opens up their season against the George Mason Patriots. Riding the momentum of what was considered to be the best season



in program history, the Patriots are looking for a strong game against the Blue Jays. After a disappointing season that was plagued by a relentless schedule, the young Hopkins team looks to take the field and show what a year's experience can do. With strong leadership and an aggressive style of play, here's what we can expect from the Jays on Saturday:

Young but Capable Team

— Last year's season saw sophomores and freshmen making up six of the 11 starting positions. Although the team has matured

with a year's experience, sophomores and freshmen will still be a key factor in the starting lineup. The midfield has the youngest rotation, with five freshmen, a sophomore and two juniors. Despite this, the team does bring a level of athleticism and talent that will only improve as the season progresses. What does this mean for Saturday? After a successful fall season, the team has proven that they have a lot of potential. It will be interesting to see how far the team dynamic has come in just half a year's time.

Fight for the Goal — With four goaltenders in contention for a playing time, the Jays' coaching staff has a lot to work with. Senior Amelia Harris is a team player, who is comfortable in and outside of the cage. Senior Jess Buicko is an athletic former hockey goalie who made the switch from attack

to goal two seasons ago. Junior Lizzie O'Ferrall combines consistency with great angles that will make her a valuable weapon in the net. Sophomore Julianne Wisner is young but talented and will also be looking for playing time. With so much competition, look for whoever is in goal to be on top of their game.

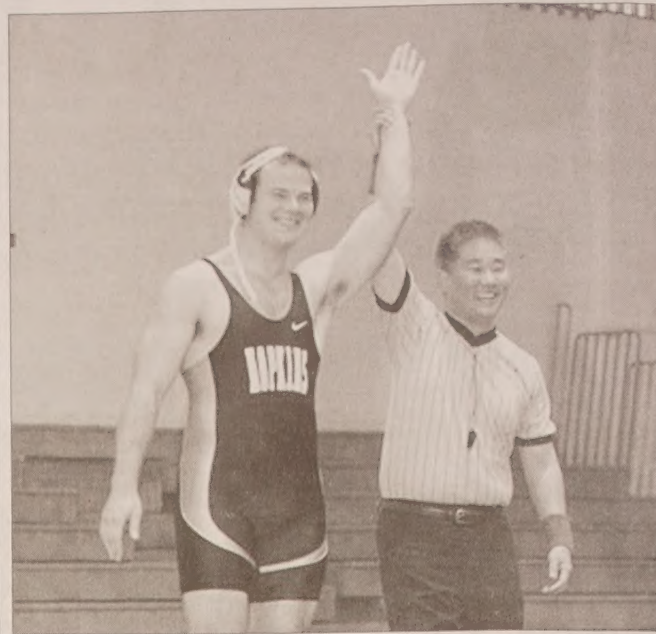
Who to watch for:

Brett Bathras — The junior attacker saw a successful 2008 season, picking up a career-high 15 goals. Her 18 assists were the most of anyone on the team and she will be a powerful asset both in shooting and feeding on Saturday.

Who to watch out for:

Maggie Bridges — Bridges, a senior defender, was recently named a member of the CAA Preseason All-Conference Team. She was also named CAA Defensive Player of the Year for her 2008 season.

She was good for 22 caused turnovers and 41 ground balls last season and will be a hard obstacle for the Jays to overcome on their way to the net.



COURTESY OF CARL SCHMIDT
Tyler Schmidt has been one of the Jays' most consistent wrestlers this season.

Wrestling drops two matches at King's Point

By STEPHEN SILHELNIK
Staff Writer

This Valentine's Day there was no love between the Johns Hopkins, Merchant Marine Academy, and Stevens Tech wrestling teams. The Johns Hopkins wrestling team finished their regular season on Saturday with two losses. The Jays opened with a loss to Merchant Marine Academy, a team which is ranked 12th nationally and currently undefeated (7-0) in the Centennial Conference.

In the first match, the Blue Jays were only able to net two wins. However, these matches were hard fought. After the first seven matches were taken by Merchant Marine Academy, Johns Hopkins chose not to accept defeat, but keep fighting. This was made apparent by freshman Hector Cintron. Cintron was able to score a major decision by a score of 12-4 against freshman Dan Argast from Merchant Marine Academy. Senior Tyler Schmidt got the picture, and followed in Hector's footsteps. He was able to secure a forfeit victory. These two accounted for the Blue Jays' ten points in their 37-10 opening loss.

The deceptive loss of 33-12 to Stevens Tech that followed was much closer than it appeared. Johns Hopkins only lost to Stevens Tech by a score of 15-12 in matches actually wrestled, as the Blue Jays had to forfeit at three weight classes. Adam Stevens exploded out of the gate with a superb 11-4 win over Brad Warren in the 125-pound weight class. Stevens Tech then claimed

a forfeit win at 133, pulling the score to 6-3 and giving the Ducks a lead that they would be able to hold for the rest of the match. Another forfeit victory was secured by Stevens Tech at 141 pounds. Junior Tony Mancini of Stevens Tech was then able to score a 13-6 victory over senior Mike Vecchiolo to put the Ducks ahead by a score of 15-3. Next up for the Ducks was junior Leo Dormann, who pinned Hopkins freshman Will Selba, followed by freshman Joe Favia's victory of 11-5 over Blue Jays sophomore Eric Levenseller in the 165-pound weight class.

Another forfeit victory was given to the Ducks at the 174-pound weight class, which gave Stevens an insurmountable lead. Despite the impossibility of winning the dual meet, the Blue Jays did not stop fighting. Cintron was again able to rally the Blue Jays to add a 7-1 win over Vince Termini. Schmidt scored another victory following Cintron, but instead of taking the forfeit victory as he did earlier, he was able to step on the mat and go to work. Schmidt was able to pin Stevens Tech's senior Valentin Riazanov in 2:48.

Cintron ended the regular season with a 25-13 overall record, with a 6-1 mark in the Centennial Conference. Schmidt was able to improve to 22-9 overall and a perfect 6-0 mark in the Centennial Conference.

Look for the Blue Jays in action on Saturday, Feb. 21, when they compete at the 2009 Centennial Conference Wrestling Championships at McDaniel College.

Women's fencing goes 5-1 at Haverford meet

By MIKE YUAN
Staff Writer

Sunday was a busy day for the women's fencing team as they traveled to Haverford, Penn. to compete at the Eastern Women's Fencing Conference Championship, hosted by Haverford College. The meet saw a total of six teams from the Mid-Atlantic competing for the crown.

The tournament was a team event, and the format of was a best of 27 bouts. In other words, the winner would have to win 14 bouts to claim the title. Each of the weapons fenced in nine bouts, while each individual fenced three bouts.

"Going into the meet, we were confident, but we still knew every meet was still going to be a challenge," junior foil Katie Kim said.

The Jays' confidence shined early on, as they took down defending champion Drew University in the first round.

One of the top fencing schools in the nation, Drew succumbed to a strong overall performance by the Jays. The cohesiveness of the team on and off the strip helped lead Hopkins to their first win of the day.

After a second-round bye, Hopkins faced off against Hunter College, Stevens Institute of Technology and Yeshiva University. The Jays carried the momentum from

their first round win to victories in all three rounds. In its fourth round bout with Stevens, the Jays came out on top with a score of 21-6.

Round six saw the Jays facing its toughest competitor of the day, host Haverford College. The

fencers. After two rotations in each weapon, the Fords led the Jays 4-2 in both. With the cumulative team score at an even 9-9,

Haverford's foil group finished out the bout with a 5-4 win for an overall team victory of 14-13,

handing Hopkins its first defeat and second place by just one touch.

Hopkins went on to beat CCNY in the seventh and final round of the day.

"We're on the right track. Although we didn't win, we did very well, and I feel like we're coming together as a team. We look forward to a rematch with Haverford in the near future," Kim, who went 11-5 on the day, said after the tournament.

The Jays will most likely get that rematch at the NIWFA Championships to be held in Piscataway, N.J. on Feb. 28.

"This is the final meet of our season, and it's what we've been working towards all year long. We hope all our hard work really shows, and we can come home with a trophy," senior co-captain epee Ying Guo said, when asked about the NIWFA.

Several Jays will again action this Saturday in the Eastern Women's Fencing Conference Individual Championships, to be held in Hoboken, N.J.



COURTESY OF JHU ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
The women's fencing team defeated defending champ Drew University.

Fords were the only other team on the day to go undefeated, and the victor of this matchup would essentially determine the champion of the entire tournament. In their last meeting early on in the season, the Jays out-duelled the Fords 18-9 in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Hopkins held an early and momentary 6-3 advantage as the nine sabre bouts finished up, leaving it up to the foil and epee

SPORTS

W. basketball falls to Mules 63-54

WBC Pink-zone initiative raises \$850 for breast cancer awareness at the Valentine's day game

By SHANT KESKINYAN
Staff Writer

With a six-game Centennial Conference win streak on the line, the Lady Jays took on the nationally ranked Muhlenberg Mules on Saturday at the Goldfarb Gym. Even though the women played fantastic bas-

hit her next layup to put Muhlenberg up 11 with 9:23 to play in the first half. With 2:57 left in the first, junior Britni Lonesome hit a free throw to cut Muhlenberg's lead to 10 points, 24-14. However, for the rest of the first half, the Jays remained scoreless as the Mules put together a 7-0 run. A late three-pointer by Lauren

an offensive rebounds, and Callanan followed with a jumper to pull the Jays within nine with 1:12 left to play. A three-pointer by senior Caitlin Sloane cut the Mules lead to six, 55-49, igniting the fans and the Jays' bench. Two free throws by Alexis Bates pushed the Muhlenberg lead back to seven with 42 seconds remaining. Sloane was fouled in three-point range on the Jays' next possession, sending the senior to the line where she hit each of her three shots, bringing Hopkins within five, the closest it would be in the second half.

On the opposite end of the floor, Muhlenberg seemed unstoppable from the free throw line. They went nine for 10 from the line in the second half.

Leading Hopkins was sophomore Lyndsay Burton, with 16 points and eight rebounds, 14 of her 16 points coming in the second half. Anastasia Wynn was the only other Jay in double-figures with 15 points, nine of which came in the first half. Phillips also added eight rebounds and two steals.

"We prepared for the game against Muhlenberg the same way that we prep for any team,"

Freshman Stephanie Fong said. "Since anybody can beat anybody on any given day, it's important that we focus and practice hard whether our opponent is 15-0 or 0-15. The first half was the worst twenty minutes we've played all season--just look at the statistics--and against a solid team like Muhlenberg, we couldn't afford that. However, the fact that we cut our deficit to five after being down by twenty-two shows our team's heart and desire."

Even though Hopkins was unable to recover from the halftime deficit, they out-scored the Mules 40-32 in the second stanza. They played a great game and definitely did not give up without a fight.

The ladies return to action on Wednesday, February 18, hosting Bryn Mawr in their final regular season home contest. A 6 p.m. tip-off time is set for the Centennial Conference matchup.

Men's B-Ball loses to Muhlenberg

By PHOEBE CAMPBELL
Staff Writer

"Bittersweet" was how senior Collin Kamm chose to describe the Senior Day game against Muhlenberg this Valentine's Day. The Jays lost to the Mules 58-54, in one of the tightest fought games of the season. The Mules move to 10-6 in Centennial Conference standings as Hopkins falls to 7-9 in the Conference with an overall record of 12-11. A win against Washington College this Saturday is now crucial if they hope to gain the fifth and final spot in the upcoming Centennial Conference Tournament.

From the start the Jays looked strong and the Mules looked shaky, missing their first 11 shots. As the buzzer rang for half time Hopkins held a strong six-point lead at 34-28, extending their lead to 46-34 at the start of the second half.

With 15 minutes to go, the Jays looked set to dominate the rest of the game. However, Muhlenberg fought back with tight defense and a reassertion of their aggressive offense. Putting 15 points up in the next seven minutes the Mules knotted the game at 49 all.

With five minutes remaining, Muhlenberg's Ryan Foster sunk a three-pointer to push the Mules ahead, 54-53. Shortly after, Collin Kamm converted a conventional three-point play to give the Jays a 56-54 lead with just over two minutes on the clock. Foster and Kamm were to duke it out to the end with a series of successful

plays at both ends of the court, though Foster was to come out the victor.

Kamm completed a layup 45 seconds later and gave the Jays 58-54 lead with 1:16 remaining, only for Foster to answer with his second three-pointer. After calling time-out with eight sec-

hard and deep inside the defense," Kamm said.

Saturday was a significant game for Kamm, who started the game with his three fellow seniors, Ryan Purcell, Phil Beggans and Scott Weisenfeld, in recognition of Senior Day. Kamm describes starting the game together as "really great" but said it was "also a reality check that this is going to end really soon."

Purcell posted a career high of nine points in this weekend's game, ending his career in style. Beggans, Kamm and Weisenfeld, were three of the six Hopkins players to each score over 20 points in a single game this season.

Kamm is also edging closer to Hopkins elite as moves to go 500-200-100. That is over 500 points, 200 assists and 100 steals. His current stats of 524 points, 198 assists and 117 steal puts him just two assists away from this remarkable feat, achieved by only three others in the program's history.

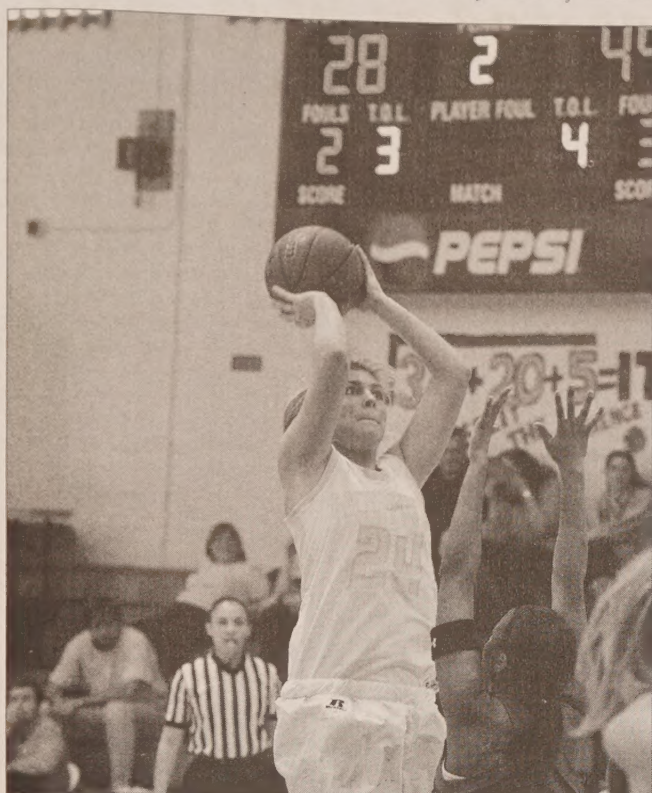
Saturday's game was also significant

for Jays Head Coach Bill Nelson as it marked his 600th game as the leader of Hopkins basketball program. This is his 23rd year coaching at Hopkins.

The coach and team now look to Saturday's game against Washington, where they need a win.

"We have two games left in the season and we need to win both to have any chance of making it to the conference playoffs, so that is really all the team is focused on right now," Kamm said.

There is just one spot remaining, and the Jays will have to be on their best form against the Washington College Shoremen this Saturday if they want it to be theirs.



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Sophomore Lyndsay Burton, dressed in pink, recorded 16 points and eight rebounds.

ketball in the second half, a 17-point halftime deficit ended up too overwhelming to overcome as they lost 63-54. The Jays are still tied for second in the Centennial Conference standings and move to 12-11 on the season and 10-6 in conference play. The Mules continue their perfect record in Conference play (16-0) and are 20-3 on the season.

But the game was special despite the loss. Not only was it senior day, when the Jays honored their three seniors, captains Caitlin Sloane, Kristin Phillips and Jenna Berninger, but also they participated in the WBCA's Pink Zone Initiative, where the Jays wore special pink and white uniforms and pink warm up shirts to fundraise for breast cancer research.

The Mules got off to a quick start and led the Jays 14-4 at 10:29 in the first half. A three-pointer by Anastasia Wynn cut the lead to seven, but a quick basket by the Mule's Sheila Cook stretched it back to a nine-point game. Cook

Boyle put the Mules up 31-14 as both teams headed into the locker room.

In the second half, the women came out fired up and ready to fight. Sophomore Lyndsay Burton hit her first three shots of the second half, scoring Hopkins's first six points after halftime to make it 35-20. Muhlenberg's Alex Chili sank a jumper but Burton answered back with her own. Chili replied 25 seconds later with another layup, keeping Muhlenberg in the lead 39-22.

Maybe it was because of the spirit of the day, but the Jays were undeterred. Down 22 points and with only 10:01 left to play, the team went on a 12-0 run, ignited by Siobhan Callanan, who had six points in the run. Wynn hit two jumpers during the streak as well, to make it 52-42 with 3:50 to play.

A three-pointer by Muhlenberg's Chili put the Mules back up by 13 points but Burton wasn't done. She hit her next layup after



EILEEN HUANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior center Andrew Farber-Miller attempts a jumper against Muhlenberg.

Track team finds success at the Valentine's Day Invitational

TRACK, FROM B12

when they fully dedicate themselves to their goals," Van Allen said about his milers.

Despite being sick, senior Paula Osborn ran an impressive race in the 200 meter with a time of 26.47, breaking the school record.

When asked about how her race felt, Osborn replied, "I had a sinus infection and the flu so I did not feel so hot during my races, but I tried not to think about that and focus on how lucky I was to be running on such a fast track. It worked!"

More records were broken as the weekend progressed. Senior Jordan Ireton broke the school record in the 800m with a 2:17.15, missing the NCAA provisional mark for nationals by a single second. Ireton currently holds the school record for the 400 meter and 1000 meter.

"[She] is going to go down as not just one of the best runners in the history of our program, but certainly as one of the most gutsy and competitive athletes I have ever coached," Van Allen said.

Senior Emma Hiza dropped over 25 seconds in her 5k race from her personal best and moved up to second on the Hopkins all-time top 10 list with an 18:06.

The women's distance medley relay also competed, but this team looked much different than the one that had held its own against some of the best schools in the country last weekend. Paulsen ran the 1200 meter leg followed by Osborn in the 400 meter leg and Hogen in the half mile. Freshman Cecilia Furlong took the anchor leg, finishing with an impressive personal best of 5:11.8.

The men also had a strong showing. Junior David Sigmon ran an 8:51 in the 3k, his best race of the season. Sigmon is in reach of the school record of 8:46.

Sophomore Elliot Wehner ran strong in the 800m and remains the top-ranked 400m runner in

the Conference. Junior Dan Pike ran a personal best by 20 seconds in the 5000m, running under 5 minute pace and crossing the line in 15:32.

The team returned home at the end of the weekend with a lot to be proud of. The excitement was shared by everyone on the team, all of whom dress on inspiration from both their own performances and those of their fellow teammates.

"The team did so fantastic this weekend! All our hard work is really paying off. In Boston, every girl who ran ran a PR and we had 3 national qualifying times (2 in the mile and our B team DMR) and three school records broken. I can say with confidence that the team is right where we need to be to succeed in our goal of winning conferences," says Osborn.

The Blue Jays are looking to maintain their momentum as they enter into championship season. With the Conference Championship coming up in less than two weeks, the team is working harder than ever to ensure a victory.

With strong performances on the men's side this past weekend, the guys look to have a strong showing in the next meet as well.

The women's team has its eye on its first ever Conference title, and will be going after Haverford College, the defending Champions. In order to do this, Van Allen believes that the best approach is a strong attack from both the track and the field.

"We need a well balanced attack at this. We need to score in every event, and score big in those events that are our strengths. It

might be a freshman that steps up for an 8th place finish in an event that is the difference between us being conference champions or the runner-ups," says Van Allen.

The track team competes at the Keough Invitational this Friday at Haverford College.

UPCOMING MEETS

2/20 - Keough Invit.

2/28 - C.C. Champ.

3/13 - NCAA DIII Champ.

Swimming breaks records at the Bluegrass Championships

SWIM, FROM B12

with her time, and Tsay's time ranks third all-time. In the final event of the day, the 400 medley relay, Spach, Tsay, Sarah Andryauskas and Rogers shattered the school record by more than two seconds, with a time of 3:51.44. The second day closed with Hopkins in first place with 243 points.

The Lady Jays wasted no time increasing their lead on day three. In the opening event, a team of freshman Tiffany Tembreull, Tsay, Rogers and Andryauskas took first place in the 200 medley relay in record fashion. Their time of 1:44.93 broke the Jays' previous record by more than three seconds. In the 400 individual medley Kozlowski took second place in 4:37.39.

Andryauskas continued to swim well, taking first place in the 100m butterfly in 55.54, another school record.

Hopkins added another first place finish to their résumé in the 100 breaststroke. In the event, Tsay was the first to touch the wall in 1:06.35. The team broke another school record in the 800 freestyle relay. Rogers, Ghemigian, Stautner and senior Megan Zepp finished second with a time of 7:39.05, two seconds ahead of Hopkins's previous school record.

In the 200m freestyle, Ghemigian finished third with a time of 1:54.03. At the end of the day, Hopkins held a 38-point lead above the University of Tampa,

457-419.

Hopkins swam well the fourth day but not well enough to hold off a surging University of Tampa team. In the 1650m freestyle, Heslin took third in 17:36.13, Culver finished fifth in the 200m backstroke (2:06.69) and Rogers took third place in the 100 free in 52.59. Rogers broke the previous school record in the event. Tsay and Bresnahan finished second and sixth, respectively, in the 200m breaststroke, with times of 2:23.06 and 2:28.05.

At this point Tampa had taken a small lead, but a solid performance in the 200m butterfly brought the two teams neck-and-neck. Four Jays finished in the top eight: sophomore Michele Palopoli took third, Heslin fourth, Kozlowski seventh and Andryauskas eighth.

In the end it came down to the final event, the 400m freestyle relay. Tampa led the first half of the race, but Rogers's time of 51.29 in the third leg gave Hopkins a narrow lead entering the final stretch. However, Tampa retook the lead in the final leg of the race, giving them the overall victory.

With the second place finish, the Hopkins women's swim team has finished first or second in the BGMC Championships for the past five years. The team takes to the water next week at the Seahawk Invitational in St. Mary's City, Md. and then will begin to prepare for NCAAs.

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SPORTS

Did You Know?

During this offseason, the Pittsburgh Pirates signed two pitchers from India, Dinesh Patel and Rinku Singh. Both cricket players who did not pick up a baseball until last year, they became the first athletes from India to sign professional baseball contracts.

CALENDAR

FRIDAY

M. Lacrosse vs. Sienna 6 p.m.

SATURDAY

W. Lax vs. George Mason 1 p.m.

M. and W. track continue record breaking run

By KAT BASELICE
Staff Writer

The Hopkins track and field team split up this past weekend, with half the team heading to the Dickinson Invitational in Carlisle, Penn., and the other half flying up to compete in Boston University's Valentine Invitational.

At the Dickinson Invitational, the men's team placed third behind Messiah and Dickinson. Sophomore Pierre Hage competed well, taking sixth place in the 400m with a time of 53.55. Freshman Jacob Kramer continued his strong season with a fourth place finish in the 55m hurdles in 8.20 seconds. They were complemented by a strong field performance from Senior Adam Waddell in the pole vault (4.41 meters) for third place.

The women's team took fifth place behind Messiah, Dickinson, Bridgewater and Bryn Mawr. The women were led by Mira Patel, who took first in the mile, and freshman Allison Smith, who placed in the top five in both the 55m and 200m dashes. Patel led the race from the start and held on for the win against a strong pack of runners. Smith, who played soccer for Hopkins this past fall, continues to make



COURTESY OF LAURA PAULSEN

Emma Hiza ran 18:06 in the 5k as she pulled away from the rest of the pack on the way to a personal best time this weekend.

a name for herself in track, running a 7.61 to place herself among the best in the Conference. Head Coach Bobby Van Allen wanted to use this meet to keep the runners in competition mode and ready for Conferences: "This meet for us was just to get some tune-up work in, and we were without many of our top runners who were competing in Boston."

Up in Boston, the team continued to break records. The meet took place at the University of Boston, a fast track that the runners took full advantage of. "Racing in Boston is always an exciting experience. With an excellent surface and high curves, every race there gives you an opportunity to break out great times. Obviously several of the people

who made the trip dropped fantastic times," said captain David Sigmon.

Junior Laura Paulsen set the Centennial Conference record with a time of 4:55.02 in the mile. Senior Rachel Hogen ran a personal best in the mile, crossing the line in 4:58.85. This performance places her fifth in nation behind Paulsen, who is currently ranked first. "I was able to run a pretty evenly split race and had some good competition to push me. I think improving my time in the 1200 also really helped my mile. Running a good 1200 in New York two weeks ago really convinced me that I could go faster in the mile," she said.

"They are running with confidence now, which is such a key component to success in this sport... Rachel is the prime example of what one can achieve

SEE TRACK, PAGE B11

W. swimming places second at BWCC meet

By MIKE PORAMBO
Staff Writer

Two seconds. Two seconds separated the Hopkins women's swimming team from first place at the Bluegrass Mountain Conference Championships last weekend in Charlotte, N.C. With Hopkins and the University of Tampa neck-and-neck, Tampa took the final event — the 400 free relay — by just under two seconds. In the end Hopkins amassed 647 points, but Tampa finished with 657.

The Lady Jays swam superbly all four days of the event. Day one ended with Hopkins on top. Sophomore Kathleen Heslin finished second in the 1,000 free in 10:36.38, a career best and the fifth fastest time in school history. Freshman Heidi Culver and sophomore Mary Claire Kozlowski finished fifth and sixth, respectively, with

times of 10:42.77 and 10:44.20.

Day two was just as successful as the first. In the first event of the day, a team of Annie Tsay, Elizabeth Rogers, Katie Vance and Jackie Rooney finished fourth in the 200 free relay with a time of 1:37.73, the fourth fastest time in program history. In the 500 free freshman Christine Ghemigian finished second in 5:03.86, a career best for her by 12 seconds, and senior Elissa Stautner finished third in 5:06.12. In the 200 IM freshman Meaghan Bresnahan finished fourth in 2:10.38, with freshman Margaret Spach finishing sixth right behind her in 2:11.80. Rogers and Tsay continued to swim excellently. Rogers finished second in the 50 free and Tsay took fourth, with times of 24.22 and 24.35, respectively. Rogers broke the school record

SEE SWIM, PAGE B11



COURTESY OF CONOR KEVIT

The swim team placed a close second this weekend to the University of Tampa.

INSIDE

M. & W. Lax: Opening Week Preview

Both the men's and women's lacrosse teams open their respective seasons this weekend at Homewood Field. Sports Editor Kat Baseline previews the matchups. **Page B10.**

Athlete of the Week: Elizabeth Rogers

Freshman swimmer Elizabeth Rogers swam into the record books this week, breaking three individual records and on her way to earning the *News-Letter* Athlete of the Week title. **Page B10.**

M. & W. Basketball: WBCA Pink-Zone

The men's and women's basketball teams participated in the WBCA Pink-Zone initiative this past weekend. The women's team wore pink jerseys, while the men wore pink shoelaces. **Page B11.**

Sterling Jazz Brunch @ the Fresh Food Café

Sunday, February 22, 2009

10AM-2PM

Special Menu Includes all Your Brunch Favorites and Live Jazz

Menu Highlights:

Belgian Waffles with Cinnamon, Powdered Sugar and Whipped Cream

Red White and Blue Pancakes

Mixed Berry Pancakes (Strawberry-Blueberry) and Plain Pancakes with Maple Syrup

Scrambled Eggs

Apple Smoked Bacon

Turkey Sausage Patties

O'Brien Potatoes

Special Pizza:

Spinach and Ricotta

Old Bay Peel and Eat Shrimp with Cocktail Sauce

Assorted Artisan and Sliced Breads with Flavored Butters

Maryland Crab Soup

Cream of Mushroom Soup

Carved Leg of Lamb with Mango-Mint Chutney

Caramelized Onion and Goat Cheese Mashed Potatoes

Pesto Baked Salmon with Orzo in Rosa Sauce

Vegan Red Curry with Jasmine Rice

Special Pasta: *Gemelli Pasta with a Lemon Alfredo,*

Sundried Tomatoes, Spinach and Capers